

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Fred's a fellow who's seen it all

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer

Every community has families who have resided there many years over several generations. During that time they make their mark through their individual personalities and their involvement in community affairs. They also store up a wealth of knowledge about the community's past in the tales passed from one generation to the next.

It takes a bit of coaxing to get Fred Ruddell of Ritz, Georgetown going, but the stories and artifacts his family have collected are well worth digging into.

The Ruddells originated in County Armagh, Ireland, arriving in Canada in the mid-1800s. They accepted 100 acres from the crown on the east half of lot 9, concession 7. Mr. Ruddell's grandfather homesteaded on the Seventh Line just below the railway tracks and Highway 7 around 1870.

His nearby neighbor, Dr. Robert McCullough, owned the farm north of the highway and at that point, a small cemetery situated in the bush was on his land was commonly referred to by passers-by as being haunted; they told how they'd seen something white in the cemetery and heard it rattling chains. Mr. Ruddell's grandfather said the "ghost" was actually Dr. McCullough's white ox. Since the animal had a habit of jumping fences Dr. McCullough put chains on him to stop his wandering.

Mr. Ruddell's father, Ward, bought the McPherson farm on the west half of lot 13, concession 6, in 1898 and brought his bride, Louisa Hardy to the farm two years later. Mr. Ruddell sold it to Pete McArthy in 1973.

The farm, Cluny Castle, raised a good potato crop in 1917, when Ward Ruddell sold about five boxcar loads of 100-pound bags and shipped them out of the Georgetown railway station. He bought a six-passenger McLaughlin car and two tractors that year, including a Monarch Caterpillar tractor and one of 500 Fordson tractors shipped to Ontario from Ireland.

The Ruddells began doing custom threshing in 1926 and



FRED RUDELL

were eventually averaging about 30 customers for threshing and corn cutting by the time they quite in the mid-1950s. They also filled about 50 silos with grass in the spring, Mr. Ruddell says.

Having something of an inventive mind, Mr. Ruddell senior figured out a way to build his own corn sheaf loader from the back end of a car. It took the corn sheaves directly from the binder to the flat-bottomed wagon and saved an extra handling during the harvest process. People from the International Harvester Company heard of it and came to

watch it in operation. It wasn't many years before the company had one on the market under its own patent.

The Ruddells bought a pull-type Moline combine in 1940, one of the first in the area. In 1946, they invested in a self-propelled Massey combine. It was the first one in Georgetown, prompting neighbors who came in to watch it in action to express reservations about how well it would work in the grain harvest.

Forage harvester came on the market in 1942 or 1943, Mr. Ruddell says, and again his family tried out the new labor-

saving way to harvest corn by purchasing one in 1946 or 1947. They had the first two-row forage harvester in Ontario. It is now an antique and in need of numerous repairs, he says.

Although the Ruddells had quite a way with machines and began using tractors many years ago, that didn't put an end to their interest in horses. Mr. Ruddell took first place in the county plowing match at the University of Guelph in 1938 with a walking plough and a team of horses he trained himself.

One of the worst area farm fires was the loss of Mr. Ruddell's barn in the 1950s. He can't recall the exact date, only that it was the day before he was to auction off all his Jersey cattle. The fire broke out in the middle of the night and everything was lost, including "maybe 100 calves". People had been coming and going all day helping to get ready for the sale and looking at items to be sold. His mother saw a car drive out around 12:30 a.m. and the blaze was discovered around 3 a.m. No one knows what caused it, but Mr. Ruddell suspects careless smoking.

In his last years of farming, Mr. Ruddell kept beef cattle. He sold most of his property in 1973, but he hasn't retired. Now he tinkers around with a bulldozer and a front-end loader doing a bit of excavating and farm work like cleaning fence bottoms and barns.

The fact that he was working near his farm and came home to make lunch saved him from being robbed last July 24. He had just gotten in his back door when he heard glass breaking in a front window. He picked up a pitchfork near the back door and went to investigate, discovering two escapees from Brampton jail looking for something to eat and anything else they might have fancied.

Mr. Ruddell fought with them and they fled, finally being picked up by police that night in Woodstock. They apparently found some clothes in a house farther along and stole a car in Acton.

Mr. Ruddell, a director of Steam Era and a member of the Caledon Steam Club, has a couple of projects completed

that took a bit of work and research. Many Georgetown residents will recall the dog-powered churn Mr. Ruddell displayed during Pioneer Days. He bought it at Rosemount in 1963, rebuilding most of it, since it was pretty well rotted down.

He also has two antique cars which he bought some years ago. His 1915 Model T Ford is one of the last of the brass-fronted roadsters and as far as he knows, there are only two in existence from that year.

The seven-passenger Chalmers was built in 1914 by the Chalmers Motor Company of Detroit. Only about four of them exist between Canada and the United States. It was missing the name plate but a

friend found one for him in the United States.

For those who enjoy tales of Halton's involvement in Williams Lyon McKenzie's various escapades, Mr. Ruddell's ancestors have one to add to the collection.

After the famous rebellion, Halton's first magistrate, Alan MacPherson, is supposed to have hidden the fugitive in his house, a large stone structure near Mr. Ruddell's home, which is considered a collector's item because of its white pine interior.

McKenzie is also said to have been helped by MacPherson's neighbor, who refused to allow him shelter in any of his buildings but would take him food to a certain location in the

sugar bush.

MacPherson is supposed to have been friendly with a Mr. McLaren at the Forks of the Credit. His home was on a height of land and, being a stone house, was known as McLaren's Castle. McKenzie is supposed to have been moved back and forth between the two houses, depending on where the authorities happened to be searching for him.

Apparently, his accomplices would put McKenzie in a large wooden box, cover it with a load of hay and drive from one place to the other whenever he needed to be moved. One night enroute, he got very thirsty and asked his driver to stop so he could get a drink. McKenzie went into a tavern in Stewart-

town, wet his whistle and wasn't even recognized until after he had gone, when it was too late to alert the authorities. Mr. Ruddell recalls his parents saying all the big trees on the farm had been cleaned out and when they married in 1900, you could see from their farm on the Sixth Line right up to McLaren's Castle.

Ward Ruddell was also a taxidermist and left his son several cases of stuffed wildlife which he mounted, among which are specimens which would be considered rare in Halton today. Mr. Ruddell also has a collection of Indian artifacts dug up at one time or another on one of the family farms and a piece of meteorite which landed on a Cleave farm near Georgetown.



Fred Ruddell's Model T appears in many parades in Georgetown. Here he takes winners in the Pioneer Days fashion show for a quick spin along Main Street after the judging in June.

The 1914 Model T is one of only a few in existence and is the last model made with a brass front, Mr. Ruddell says. (Herald photo)

Hypnosis highlights

Hoddinott entranced audience at UWC lecture

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

The many uses of modern hypnosis, from complicated medical procedures for helping patients to cope with pain or psychological disorders, to its simplest applications as an aid to concentration for athletes and those seeking relaxation, were outlined last week by Georgetown GP Dr. Boyd Hoddinott.

Members and guests of the University Women's Club were treated to a brief demonstra-

tion of some of the techniques Dr. Hoddinott uses in his practice to place patients in a hypnotic "trance" following the speaker's lecture last Tuesday night at Sacre Coeur church hall.

Dr. Hoddinott first warned the audience of his intentions for the demonstration, offering onlookers a chance to leave if they felt at all reluctant or uneasy about participating.

One member of the audience acknowledged that she was so engrossed in concentrating on

the focal image Dr. Hoddinott was creating for the audience that the sound of ambulance sirens outside became the sound of seagulls in her mind.

Dr. Hoddinott emphasized that he was not performing the talk in order to seek more patients for hypnosis or hypnotherapy. He explained he practices this therapy, only on his own patients, of which he said he has enough, and on some referred to him by other doctors. He also said he rarely hypnotizes obese people or people trying to quit smoking.

Dr. Hoddinott said there is much confusion about hypnosis and because the word itself comes from another word meaning sleep, "and hypnosis has nothing to do with sleep."

ALTERED STATE
"I prefer to define hypnosis as an altered state of consciousness," he said. "It increases the susceptibility to suggestion, but of course, it can't make someone do anything against their will."

Dr. Hoddinott said studies have shown that the brain wave patterns of a person under hypnosis are different from that person's waking and sleeping patterns, indicating a separate state of consciousness.

"I would define hypnosis as communication between a person and their subconscious mind or another person and the subconscious mind," he said.

Studies have shown that at any one time, only seven pieces of information, plus or minus two, are present in the conscious mind, Dr. Hoddinott said.

This leaves much in the subconscious mind, he said. As an example, he said most people could recall the color of their present car without difficulty, but the color of the car they had five years ago would require some thought. The information is there, he said, but it is more difficult to draw out.

Dr. Hoddinott listed a number of examples of the subconscious mind controlling the conscious mind during daily living, such as sleep-walking and sleep-talking.

In the past, sleep-talking has been used as a preface to hypnosis. The hypnotist can take up the rhythm of the person's words and repeat what they are saying, Dr. Hoddinott said, and then begin to lead the person into the areas the hypnotist wishes to learn about.

"So ladies, it is possible to find out what your husband is talking about in his sleep, but not if you poke him in the ribs and demand to know," Dr. Hoddinott said.

Hypnosis is often used by athletes in training to improve their performance, Dr. Hoddinott said. Studies have shown that it is possible to take an untrained athlete and have him visualize himself performing a certain skill, over and over. After a certain number of repetitions, the person will be able to perform this skill, Dr. Hoddinott said. Trained athletes visualize themselves performing successfully before a competition to improve their performance.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about the role of the hypnotist," Dr. Hoddinott said. "There are resistant people, but it just means their view of life is different from that of the person who is trying to guide them into an altered state."

THREE MODES
"Each of us operates in one of three experimental modes," he continued. "There are people who think of experience visually -- who picture it in their minds. There are people who think in terms of sounds and what they hear, and there are kinesthetics, who think in terms of physical sensations."

It is possible to figure out what mode people are in by listening to the way they talk and by watching their eyes, Dr. Hoddinott said. People who talk of experiences in the visual sense are operating in the visual mode. Eye pattern can also tell a hypnotist what mode a person is in, from the direction in which the person looks.

"The idea that you won't wake up from hypnosis is ridiculous," according to Dr. Hoddinott, who leaves suggestions for his patients who are in

deep psycho-therapy hypnosis that they will remember what they need to remember, and forget what they need to forget. He leaves it up to the person's mind to decide, it being the best judge.

As an example of the fact that people can't be forced to do something against their will, Dr. Hoddinott talked about Sirhan Sirhan's assassination of Robert Kennedy. Sirhan said he had been hypnotized to kill Kennedy. Studies of his diaries over a couple of years show many entries in a different handwriting from his own, saying over and over that Kennedy must die.

The therapists concluded after extensive tests that Sirhan hypnotized himself and that the handwriting in his diaries is his own from an earlier period of his life. Thus, investigators concluded he had not

been hypnotized into doing something against his will.

STOP BLEEDING

Dr. Hoddinott described a couple of experiences of people using hypnosis to stop the flow of blood during surgical operations. He also talked about an experience he had last summer, stitching up a gash in a girl's chin. She had fainted and fallen, striking her chin on cement. He talked to her while he was putting in the stitches, and she asked, after it had been done, when he was going to begin putting in the stitches.

Dr. Hoddinott said in the past, these kind of incidents had been considered "tricks", but with the public's growing acceptance of the idea of body control through biofeedback techniques, people are accepting this kind of thing more readily.

"The single most important

use of hypnosis, for me and for to help them relax," Dr. Hoddinott said. "We all have experiences of happiness and self-confidence in the past and I help them to bring these out."

Hypnosis can also be used to help a patient ignore pain. It has been used with terminal cancer patients, and is getting widespread use in dentistry, Dr. Hoddinott said. At the Houston Gynecological Centre, experiments have shown hypnosis to be useful not only in helping patients deal with pain, but in extending life expectancy. In some terminal patients, life expectancy was more than doubled from 110 days to 240 days.

COPE WITH PAIN

"Hypnosis doesn't stop the pain of an illness," Dr. Hoddinott said. "It just puts the patient at a level where they

feel comfortable."

The removal of such "symptoms" as nail-biting, over-eating and smoking is not one of the strong points of hypnosis, Dr. Hoddinott said.

"The success rate is not impressive," he said. "It depends on how important a part of your personality it is."

"We still don't know what hypnosis is," Dr. Hoddinott said. "It's a very powerful tool. It's not perfect, because I'm not perfect. I've failed sometimes."

Hypnosis can provide a form of escape for people, Dr. Hoddinott said.

"If you don't like where you are, you can go elsewhere, up here," he said, pointing to his forehead. "Of course, it wouldn't do for all of us to do that all of the time. But we are all in altered states of consciousness every day."



We all have the power of self-hypnosis, Dr. Boyd Hoddinott told the audience at a UWC meeting a week ago Tuesday, and he proceeded to prove it with a demonstration of different techniques which provide the relaxation leading to a hypnotic trance.

(Herald photo)

About the Hills

Snowmobile, truck collide

Both drivers were uninjured when a snowmobile and a pick-up truck collided at the corner of Normandy Boulevard and Guelph Street January 7.

The snowmobile, driven by Karl Darling, 16, of Georgetown slid on an icy section of the road, and went through the stop sign, striking the truck driven by Ronald Fuller, 33, also of Georgetown.

Damage to Mr. Fuller's truck was estimated at \$200. Damage to the snowmobile was also estimated at \$200.

Sign bylaw postponed

Responding to requests from several business groups, the town's general committee has postponed its decision on the proposed sign bylaw for another month. Clerk-administrator Ken Richardson told committee Monday that he had been contacted by the Acton Business Improvement Area's board of directors, the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and several other business groups requesting that the bylaw be deferred until they had had sufficient time to study its ramifications.

Dump truck rolls

A dump truck sustained extensive damage when it overturned on the Fourth Line January 7.

The truck, driven by Vani Loreto, 45, of Scarborough, was southbound on the Fourth Line when it went out of control and rolled over on the south side of the road.

The front end, right side and trailer frame were all damaged. Damage was estimated at \$1,500.

Train whistle bylaw stuck

The town's general committee has deferred a proposed bylaw which would prohibit trains from using whistles at specific crossing within the town. Committee voted Monday to allow J.D. Pemberton, a resident who made the original recommendation to ban the whistles, time to contact the Canadian Transportation Commission to discuss recommendations it made to the town. The CTC said in a letter to the town that the present population levels surrounding the affected crossing do not warrant, in its opinion, the prohibition of train whistles.

Emergency appeal

Volunteer Private Emergency Housing in Halton Hills, as well as transportation vehicles, such as vans, etc. are needed in time of major disaster. For further information, please call Red Cross office 877-5233 (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays); after hours: Contact Centre, 877-1211.

Caledon bridge results

Results of the Caledon Bridge Club on January 9 are 1. Gord Burbidge and Stan Everingham, 2. Marlene McFadden and Maureen Walker, Tied for 3rd Gene and Ralph Gillespie, Susan and Csaba Varga. Results of January 10 are 1. Tanya Blatnick and Jim Paterson, 2. Bill Cairns and Jim Oliver, 3. Elaine and Ron Smith.