

MARY ELIZABETH MAXWELL'S

Life on the other side of those

Stained Glass Windows

Driving in Esquesing recently we passed the empty corner on #5 Sideroad where the Mansfield Church had stood for many years, and we spoke of many other fairly local churches that have disappeared - the little Anglican Church at Omagh has been gone for a long time, the United Church at Ashgrove was taken down when that parish and Hornby United were amalgamated to form the Hillcrest charge at the corner of 7th Line and #5 Sideroad. The Hornby Church is now used as a community hall as well as for other purposes. Eden United was torn down and a very modern church erected not too far from the Meadowvale Centre complex. Hornby Presbyterian on the Base Line continued to hold one service a year until the church burned down. Over in Peel County Mount Pleasant Presbyterian was converted to a

commercial enterprise called KirkKraft, and the congregation worshiped with the Norval Presbyterian Church. The old Baptist Church on the 10th Line Esquesing was moved over to the town line and renovated as a residence.

And not only are the country churches disappearing, but farmers we knew so well are disappearing even faster than the churches. The developers have devoured thousands of acres. People do need homes, but by the same token, there is simply no substitute for agriculture. Our cornfields are more than just a green bite for a cow, and when they go down the food chain is diminished if only by a fraction - there will be a little less corn meal, corn syrup, corn flakes, corn oil, corn starch, corn chips, pop corn and many others!

The oat fields are not just

oats for horses, but oatmeal, oat bran, oatcake, cereals, and flour. And we are very dependent on wheat for our flour, shredded wheat and other cereals. Barley of course is both food and drink. When the land goes out of production chances are it will never be reclaimed and pavements make poor pasture.

We do know that farmers look on their land as a retirement fund, and if their family doesn't wish to continue farming the land will be sold. When there are so many other options open for young people today with more money and far less heartbreak you can't blame them for leaving the farm, but when a farm goes down it is a loss to the community and to the country church.

I can remember when the

Harvest Home Service would find the churches beautifully decorated with sheaves of grain, stooks of corn and heaps of vegetables, fruit and homemade bread on the altar with the symbolic grapes. There are no sheaves anymore, the combines took care of that and the corn is now cut and chopped on the field and transported to pit or standing silos. We also like to remember that the good Lord said, "While the earth remaineth seedtime and harvest shall not fail," but the evidence is getting scarcer.

We should cherish the warmth and fellowship in our country churches and cherish our land for there is really no substitute for either one.



It was Confirmation Sunday at St. John's Stewarttown and following the service Bishop Bagnall came to the Rectory for lunch. During the course of conversation the Bishop mentioned that someone had been very stupid about his schedule for the day and he would be unable to stay longer.

Three-year-old Mary Honey heard his remark and said, "Stupid isn't very nice to say." The Bishop hesitated a moment, looked across the table at his "mentor" and said, "Shall I say 'indiscreet'?"

Mary Honey nodded and went on eating her pear. Neither the new word or the Bishop's purple vest meant anything to her, but she did know that "stupid wasn't very nice to say!"

Remembering

John McNabb

BY BETTY BROWNRIDGE
THE COMPASS

Well-known Halton farmer John McNabb passed away on July 4th at Milton District Hospital. John was a born farmer who took great pleasure in tilling the soil, growing a good crop, and raising and showing prize Guernsey cattle.

John was born at Unionville, Ontario on April 30th, 1918. In 1921, he moved with his family to the Eighth Line in Esquesing Township that was the birthplace of his grandmother Ann McCallum McNabb.

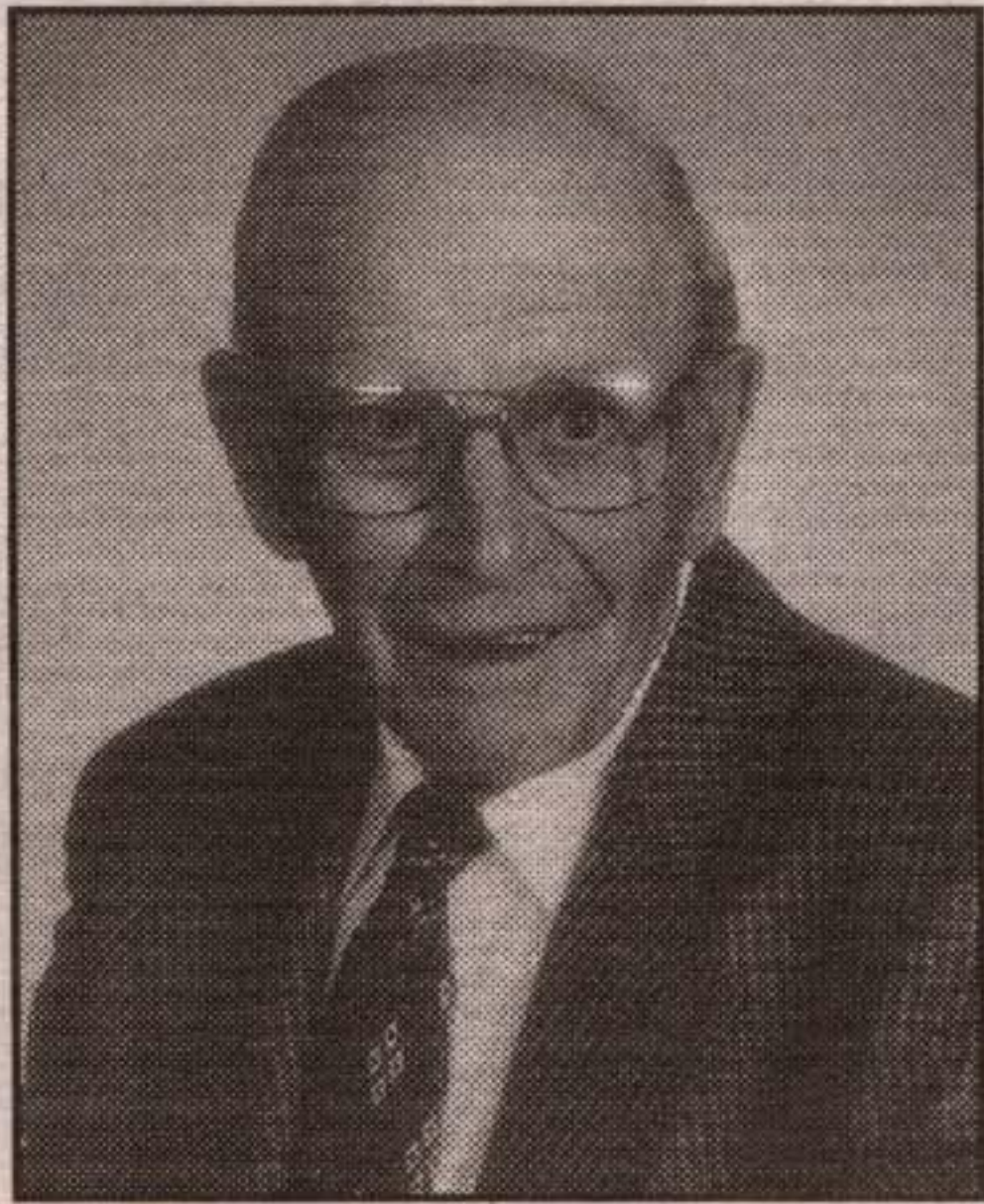
After leaving school, John worked the farm with his father and brothers. He was active in the Halton and Norval Junior Farmers, serving on the executive of each of them. In 1942, after winning the combined grain and livestock judging competitions, John represented Halton County at the 4-H Congress in Chicago. He also coached young competitors at many ploughing matches.


In 1949 John bought a farm on Trafalgar Road and settled there after marrying Doris Brownridge in 1950. John and Doris raised three children - Lois, Ken, and Marilyn.

The McNabbs developed a fine dairy herd of Guernseys and shipped milk. They competed at local fairs and won many awards at the Canadian National Exhibition and Royal Winter Fair, including Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor. John was president of the Ontario Guernsey Breeders Association, a 4-H Calf Club leader for many years and president of the Leaders Council in 1968. He was recognized for his service to community and agriculture when named Halton's first "Farmer of the Year" in 1982.

John will also be remembered as a member of the Milton Fair Board. Both he and Doris received an agricultural service diploma from the Board in 1995. He was a member of Hillcrest United Church and served on the church council.

In 1991, John and Doris moved to Milton when their son Ken married Marie Hartley. John continued to help with the field-work and remained interested in farm activities. His six grandsons were a great delight to him.





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~ DOWNTOWN ACTON ~

SUNDAY AUGUST 8, 1999

11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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