

At last — the true story

How George saved our famous tree

by Larry Martin

Before what must be the plant world's equivalent of Bubonic Plague swept in from Holland last decade, you could stand almost anywhere in the rural southern Ontario and be reasonably sure that not too far below were the snarled roots of an elm tree.

When public school children picked up their paint brushes to do still life, the disproportionate blotch of brown and green, if it had any shape at all, was sure to have just the slightest hint of an elm about it.

Far from preferable for stove-wood, useless for furniture, rendered obsolete when farm wagons went steel and cement

CROOKED ELM

Gone but never to be forgotten



came into general use for barn flooring, they kept their race going unhindered in little communities on the escarpment and elsewhere.

They were so much a part of the local scene, you could hardly remember what they looked like when you gave any thought to it, but one — through a determined effort to live despite the odds — became perhaps the only element of Haltoniana to make Ripley's list of global what-nots.

With its trunk pushing upward into the atmosphere, then plummeting back to near ground level before finally stretching towards the sky in more formal fashion once more, there was no denying "Old Gooseneck" had something all the others hadn't.

For three generations, it stood waving to the traffic on Highway 25, just north of Five Sidroad.

As the horses gave in to the Model T's and they in turn progressed to the glass and steel monsters of the 1960's, a lot of people passed by.

There were the Haltonians, most of whom had long since gotten over slowing down to stare. There were the Sunday drivers from out of town, who sometimes pulled over and took pictures. And in both groups there were The Experts — people who KNEW what made Gooseneck the way it was.

"The Indians disfigured it to point to an encampment," or "A big tree fell on it years ago," THEY said. Some probably assumed it was just another advertising gimmick for a local plumber.

As far as the world at large was concerned, no-one really

knew why the tree was bent double in two places.

Recently, The Champion talked to a man who cleared up the mystery for all time.

Jack Elliott, of Court St. Milton, remembers the famous plant when it was a one-and-one-half inch sapling.

When his father, J. R. Elliott bought what is now the Jefferson farm in 1906, it had a pine stump fence marking off the boundary nearest Highway 25.

Two or three years later Mr. Elliott decided to replace the stumps with a wire fence, and a neighbor, Bert Marsh, was called in to help.

As the men axed their way through the maze of pine roots, the boys skated on the small pond nearby.

At Mr. Marsh's call, they left the pond and went over to look at what he'd discovered — a small elm tree winding its way through a stump.

Since it was in the path of the new fence, Mr. Marsh raised his axe to remove it.

Jack's younger brother stepped forward and said if it was left alone, he would dig it out and replant it near the house.

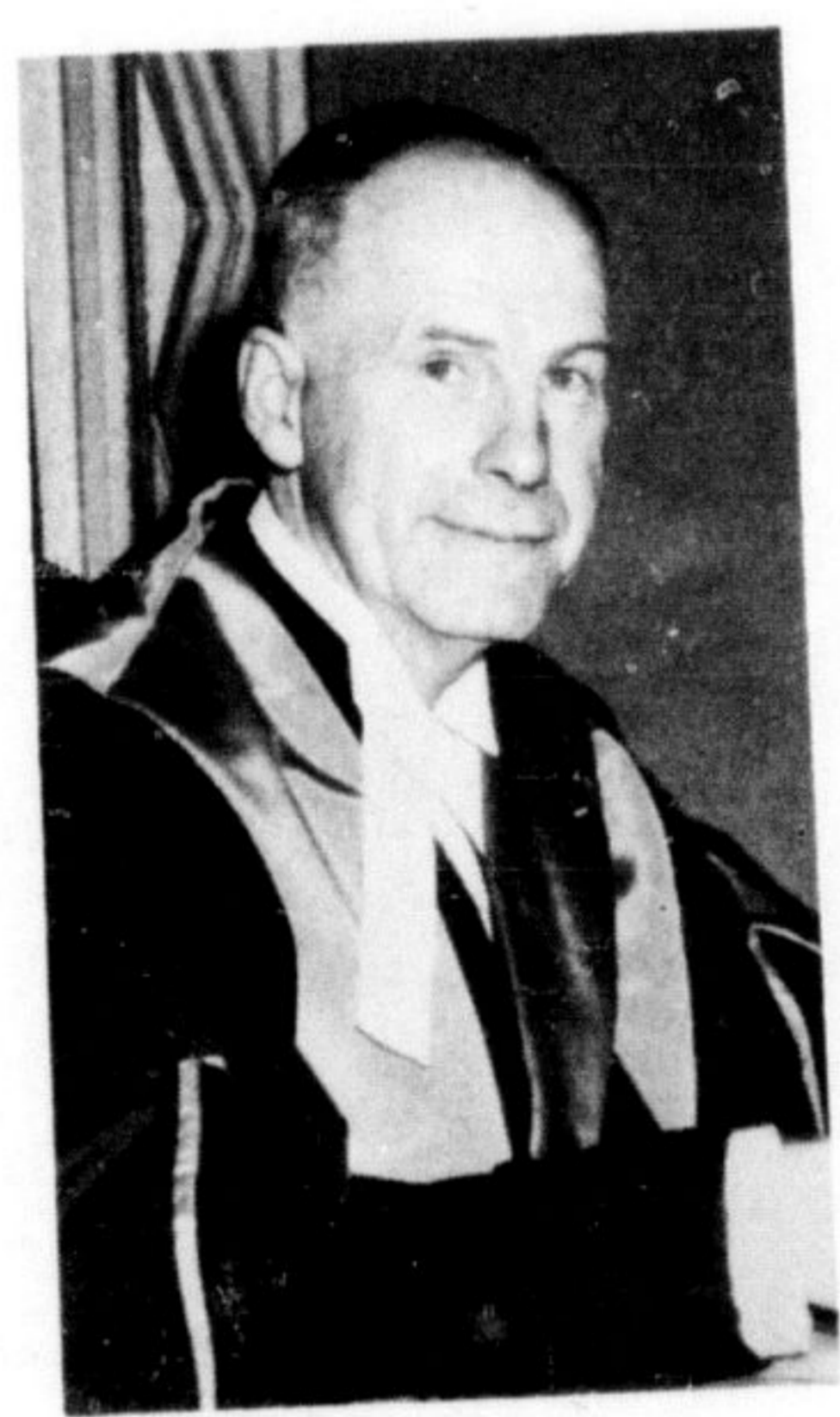
The axemen attacked the gnarled stumps surrounding it instead, and the tree lived on beside the highway, comfortably moist from the bog that existed there before the road was lowered.

What became of that small, red-headed boy's plans to transplant Old Gooseneck is unknown — but the boy isn't.

He grew up to be Halton County Judge George E. Elliott, a respected and familiar man until his death in 1965 — just two years before the tree itself died.

Old Gooseneck, though dead, will live on forever in the memories of some. Before the Department of Highways moved in to knock it down Halton Museum curator Major H. J. Newman decided the curved section bore preserving at his rustic Kelso complex of Canadiana.

It took just a simple request and an hour's work to level



GEORGE ELLIOTT

He saved tree from woodsman's axe

the tree, cut off the bent elbow sections and truck them to Kelso. In the spring, Old Gooseneck, minus its top part, will be adequately preserved and on display to thousands of visitors.

Thank you, George Elliott.

Esquising township

Will give land to Acton if no dumping permitted

A suspicion the town of Acton might still use land they want to annex from Esquising township as a garbage disposal area was allayed by a delegation from Acton at the township council Monday night. An agreement to transfer the land will be drawn up by the township solicitor.

The land is a 69-1/2 acre parcel, town-owned in the township, around Fairview cemetery.

Esquising council was assured by the three man delegation from Acton council, consisting of Mayor L. Duby, Reeve Bert Hinton and Councillor B. Drinkwater, that the township had no intentions of annexing the land for a disposal area.

Mayor Duby, acting as spokesman told Esquising councillors there were people interested in the area and they intended to open up lots for building, some of which were already serviced by the town. The mayor said there was an acute need for housing in Acton.

He brought township representatives up to date on a land exchange with Beardmore and Co. on the present site of the town dump which will be used for garbage disposal.

Reeve George Currie reminded

the Acton delegation that the last time they made a request for the land to be used as a garbage disposal area township residents in the area petitioned Esquising council to turn it down.

"What part of the cemetery is in the town and township?" asked Councillor Patterson.

"The older part of Fairview is in town, the newer section is in the township," replied Mr. Duby.

Taxes on the property contribute only about \$58 a year to township coffers, said clerk K. C. Lindsay.

Further discussion after the Acton delegation left brought a suggestion from the reeve that the township solicitor draw up an agreement for transfer of the land with the provision included it could not be used for garbage disposal.

"We can't bind them," said the clerk.

"What guarantee have we got

they won't put their dump there then?" asked the reeve.

"None," replied the clerk. "We'd have to go to the municipal board."

A suggestion from the reeve that they ask the township solicitor to draw up an agreement and let him decide what should go in it was agreed upon.

Council seemed to be in favor of the land transfer unless it was used for dumping purposes.

FLAVOR-CRISP CHICKEN SNACK
2 Pieces of Chicken French Fries **79c**

SPECIAL PAK
8 Pieces of Flavor Crisp Chicken Ready to Serve **\$2.19**

CHICKEN IN A BOX
3 Pieces of Chicken French Fries, Cole Slaw, Buttered Bun, Honey **\$1.39**

FAMILY PAK
14 Pieces of Chicken, Rolls, Honey **\$3.99**

PARTY PAK
20 Pieces of Chicken **\$5.25**

PHONE 878-6028

Murray Hood Drive-In

BASE LINE RD., WEST OF HIGHWAY 25 AT MILTON

FOR SAFE — CAREFREE FUN AND ENJOYMENT

DRIVE A "DIABLO ROUGE"

The New Advanced Snow-Vehicle from Bolens

DUAL SECTIONS Advanced twin-section design of the Diablo provides handling ease plus maximum safety. Brawny front-end power unit furnishes dependable power; coupled rear seat glides smoothly on laminated urethane-coated maple skis. Exclusive ski-seater is situated away from moving engine parts, assuring utmost safety and stability for passengers.

Test Ride This Sleek, Revolutionary Snowmobile

Phone BOB DAVIS at 878-9972 for information

Arrangements can be made to have you skiing in the Laurentians, the Alps, Northern Ontario or Banff.

- ★ CRUISES
- ★ PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
- ★ AIR
- ★ BUS
- ★ RAIL

Let Us Help You With Your Travel Needs

Milton Travel Service
14 Martin St.
878-9211 — 878-2527

COME TO MERCURY'S BOBBY HULL WIN-A-CAR-NIVAL

GREAT GAMES, GREAT PRIZES, GREAT DEALS!



Win one of the specially-built Cougars with sliding sun-roof, or any of the more than 10,000 great prizes.

Simply stop in to your Mercury showroom, register, and you're eligible. It's that simple. And you could win a specially built Cougar, with sliding sun roof, a Philco colour TV; or if you enter before Feb. 17, a trip for two to a Stanley Cup play-off game.

Win-A-Car-nival is also the best time to get a great deal on any one of the exciting '68 cars. Award-winning Cougar, Meteor, the Mercury at the standard car price. Montego, the young sized, young priced action car. Compact Falcon. Or the elegant Mercury itself. Come in to Bobby Hull's Win-A-Car-nival. Talk to one of the Mercury all-stars. And get in the deals, the fun and the prizes.

BRING THE KIDS AND PLAY "SHOOT-TO-WIN". EVERYONE GETS A PRIZE. They'll love Bobby Hull's new game "Shoot-to-Win". And they could take home a Bobby Hull hockey game, an autographed book, a skate sharpener, a puck, or a power-hook hockey stick. It's fun. It's easy. And everybody gets a prize!

MERCURY Ford

COUGAR · MERCURY · METEOR · MONTEGO · FALCON

GALLINGER MOTORS LIMITED Milton Plaza Telephone 878-2883

James A. Simpson

Funeral service for James A. Simpson, R.R. 1, Moffat, who died Saturday Jan. 20 at Guelph General Hospital in his 74th year, was held Monday afternoon.

He was born in Nassagaweya Township June 16, 1894, a son of the late George Simpson and Mary Jane Leachman. He moved to Saskatchewan in 1912, where he farmed for 25 years, returning to Ontario in 1937, where he continued farming until 1949. He then began carpenter work, which he continued until his death.

He was a member of the Arkell United Church and secretary-treasurer of the Ebenezer Cemetery board. He had formerly served as a director of the Guelph district co-op and had also been a member of the Puslinch Township school board.

He is survived by his wife, the former Georgina MacDonald, whom he married in March of 1923; a son, Donald, three daughters, Mary Cutting, Mrs. John Rigby, (Thelma); Mrs. Robt. Fitton (Marjorie); 10 grandchildren and two sisters, Elizabeth Kennedy of Toronto and Maggie Ireland of Biggar, Sask.

He was predeceased by four brothers and one sister. Rev. R. Finley conducted the service and burial was in Ebenezer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were George Hewer, Andy Leachman, Calvin McIntyre, Douglas Simpson, Donald May and John Simpson.

Pollock and Campbell

Manufacturers of HIGH GRADE MEMORIALS MEMORIAL ENGRAVING

62 Water St. North GALT Telephone 621-7580

Henny's Hair Styling

198 MILL ST. MILTON 878-3711

Sorry!
The Shop Will be Closed
From
February 10 to February 18

MID-WINTER FOOD SPECIALS

Coleman's — 100% Vegetable Oil Reg. 49c lb. tub
"SOFT" MARGARINE 3 tubs 99c

Fresh Chicken LEGS OR BREASTS 45c

Fresh "A" Fryer, Roasting CHICKENS 39c

Lean FRESH STEWING BEEF 55c

Coleman's — 5 varieties — 6-oz. vac pac COLD MEATS 4 pkgs. 95c

FREE DELIVERY EVERY DAY

No. 1 — 10-lb. bag ONTARIO POTATOES 39c

Fresh, Firm Crisp Large Size LETTUCE 2 heads 45c

Chiquita BANANAS lb. 5c

Fresh Tasty Sweet TANGERINES 3 doz. 99c

Fresh Large — 6-qt. bskt. only 89c GREEN PEPPERS 4 for 25c

Fresh "A" MEDIUM EGGS 3 doz. 99c

Tomato or Vegetable 10-oz. Tins AYLNER SOUP 8 for 95c

White Swan—Large Boxes—Reg. 2 for 65c FACIAL TISSUE 4 boxes 95c

White Swan — Reg. 2 rolls in pkg. 31c Vanity TOILET TISSUE 8 rolls 95c

Reg. 93c lb. pkg. lb. pkg. Maxwell House COFFEE 73c

ALFONSO'S FRUIT MARKET
174 Mill St. Milton 878-2460

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS

INSURE NOW

If accidents happen on your property, it can cost plenty! It's good business to protect yourself with our low-cost liability insurance.

McCUAIG Insurance Limited

Complete Insurance Coverage

208 MAIN ST. E. MILTON — 878-2894