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Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* A weekend trip to Niagara Falls made me suddenly aware there are two Niagaras. One I had been familiar with for years was the area around the Falls proper. There the beautiful landscaped areas enhance the setting for the spectacular Falls. There the driveway passes, wending its way past the awesome gorge with its frail looking cable car. The greenhouse provides a picture setting even in the deep winter on a visit to this, the most familiar Niagara.

* But there's another Niagara. It's the setting for a budding number of tourist attractions ranging from the sky-probing towers to the depths of a horror wax museum.

* A birthday in the family and an invitation to sample some of the tourist attractions combined Saturday for the project. Two simple bits of advice of a general nature were distilled from the day, each of which relate to the economics of such a venture. Packed lunches are definitely worthwhile for a family and with an abundance of picnic spots ranging from Queenston Heights to the end of the Parkway Drive, they present no major problems. The other item concerns the cost of admission to the attractions and that ranges from \$1 to \$1.75 for adults with children's admissions scaled from \$1, to free. For a family some attractions offer a family rate, but you don't hit too many of the attractions on a limited budget.

* Canada is one of the relatively new attractions at Niagara Falls and it is definitely worth a visit. Plan to spend some time there where you'll find a host of major Canadian buildings and major works in miniature scale. From a miniature Casa Loma and Parliament Buildings, to the Welland Canal and Canada Dockyards there is variety. The setting is attractive too in pleasantly landscaped areas with trees selected from the dwarf varieties to maintain the inch-to-the-foot scale. Children found

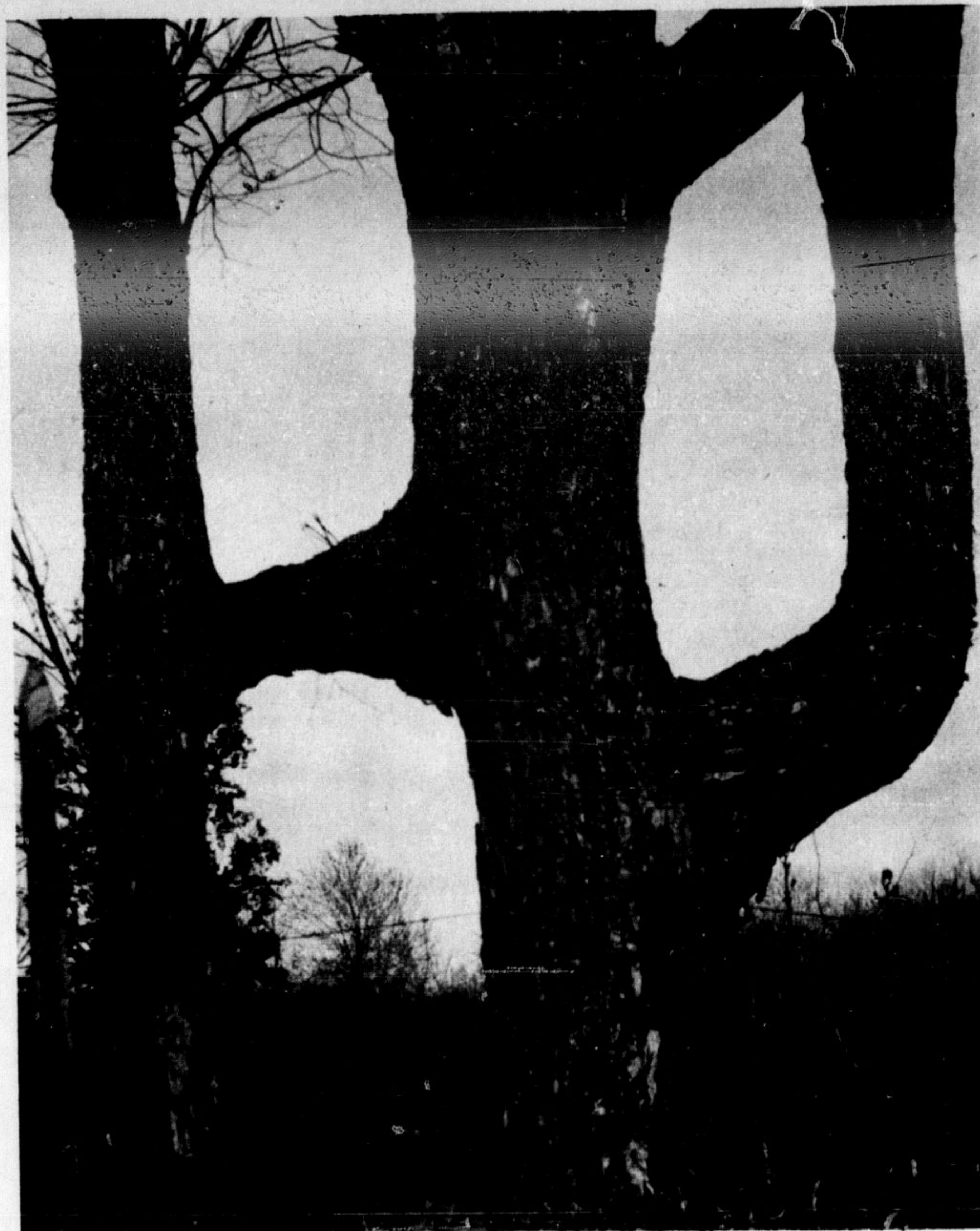
it particularly interesting because it permits a far better comprehension of how something like the Welland Locks operate than a visit to the actual site.

* The Marineland and Game Farm was another highlight. The porpoises are invariably entertaining and watching them through the glass of the underwater tank as they mingle with the sea lions proved quite interesting. Regularly scheduled shows above water provide a look at the degree of training possible. The Game Farm which is part of the same attraction allows you to walk among the animals, although some are naturally caged, and you can feed the animals with material available in dispensers. Major problem with that is getting the money in the dispenser and the food out before the friendly deer nuzzle your hand away as they cash in on the jackpot.

* The Seagram Tower provides a breathtaking view of the Falls and probably helps more in getting your geography straight than anything else. An elevator to a lower level permits a final stair-climb to the top-most point. There's no limit on your stay and a snack bar at the top permits you to survive a long-look if you care to.

* A visit to two wax museums was worked in as the day wore on, and they are not exactly exciting. The Boris Karloff Wax Museum of horrors was that. The Movieland Wax Museum highlighted scenes from memorable shows with their leading characters. It was a good memory stimulant and the interest was in identifying the characters without reading the signs.

* There is a host of other attractions time just didn't permit us to see. Perhaps a re-visit will permit them to be picked up. In any case Niagara Falls isn't that far away and you can sample them for yourselves or take the other Niagara and enjoy the Falls for nothing.



WHICH CAME FIRST, the tree on the right or the one on the left? The conjunction on the former Duncan Mac-Dougall farm resembles nothing as much as a piece of modern sculpture. We'll call it Monkey Bars. (Staff Photo)

Champion Editorial Page

Complexion of Youth and Age

Some of the most interesting figures on the complexion of Halton County come from the County Assessor's office after being accumulated from local assessor offices across the county. Figures have a way of getting passed over, however, and after the basic task of all the effort is met — equalization of the county rate — the figures go into many files.

We found the population figures particularly interesting this year because they interpret the county's complexion of youth and age. Like any set of figures the coloring they get dramatically affects their understanding. For instance you can say "43.6 per cent of the population is under 20 years of age" or you can shade it a little different by saying "over 56 per cent of the population is over 20".

With that qualification we took a look at the population figures by municipalities and it is surprising how the percentages on age run so uniformly across the county. For example the under 20 age bracket by municipalities goes like this: Acton 40 per cent, Burlington 44 per cent, Georgetown 40 per cent, Milton 41 per cent, Oakville 42 per cent, Esquesing 44 per cent and Nassagaweya 41 per cent.

It has often been said how difficult it is to keep young people on the farm, and while they may not be farming there's a healthy under-20 population in the two rural townships.

At the other end of the scale, the 70 and over bracket, there are 5,237 in Halton. Of those Milton had 261, Acton 228, Georgetown 401, Esquesing 337, and Nassagaweya 125.

Taking the unofficial designation for a "senior citizen" as being over 60 years of age you'll find Acton with 511, Burlington with 4,551, Georgetown with 819, Milton with 591, Oakville with 3,602, Esquesing 719 and Nassagaweya with 280. That represents a little better than 12 per cent of the county population.

In case you want to do your own figuring the following are the populations of the various municipalities: Acton 4,429, Burlington 71,643, Georgetown 12,617, Milton 6,421, Oakville 54,215, Esquesing 8,037 and Nassagaweya 2,894 for the total of 160,256.

There are also some in institutions that have not been included in the above figures. These would include those in hospital or Manor at the time of the September return of the assessment rolls. Just so they aren't overlooked there were 138 in Burlington, six in Georgetown, 249 in Milton and 1,003 in Oakville. That gives a final population total of 161,652.

The total astonishes us because it doesn't seem that many years ago when county population totals were being quoted in the 40,000 range.

The figures prove conclusively that Burlington has by far the largest population at 71,643 compared with Oakville's 54,215. Burlington's assessment is tops too at \$154,147,010 to Oakville's \$149,475,206. But in the taxable acreage Oakville leads with 63,556 acres to Burlington's 48,546. So which municipality is really the biggest? Depends on what figures you use.

Moral dwarfism

Indian doctors have warned the nation that unless greater efforts are made to combat malnutrition, many of the country's young people could suffer from "intellectual dwarfism." The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has established a definite relationship between protein deficiency and retarded mental development.

No such problem exists in North America. In fact, too many Americans and Canadians daily step on their scales with a worried frown because they eat too much.

What is becoming a danger on this continent, however, is what might be called "moral dwarfism." We are so consumed by North America's great affluence that materialism is becoming the most popular of the modern gods.

With general ease and comfort, the morality of men too often tends to take second place. In the United States, the nation itself is beginning to suffer from moral dwarfism. The average American

accepts the fact that his government annually spends 15 times as much on the war in Vietnam as on world-wide foreign aid projects with relative equanimity. With U.S. troops fighting in a foreign land, the first duty of Americans is to support them; one is told. But there is little thought of how history will judge U.S. involvement in Vietnam in the decades and centuries ahead.

In North America, a man who can accumulate a million dollars on the stock exchange through cunning evasion of the law is considered far cleverer, possibly even worthier than an honest and dedicated postman who spends all his working years in the service of the public. The elevation of pornography, of semi-nude teenage dancers, of high-class prostitution into very profitable, sought-after enterprises and professions — these are the makers of moral dwarfism. If the trend continues, the very essence of our society is in danger of collapse.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



One of the dirtiest words in THE English language is "housewife." How would you feel if the census-taker or the election pollsters dropped around, asked your occupation, and you had to reply with that demeaning, degrading epithet?

The very word suggests some kind of sub-woman married to a house. And, as a lot of women will tell you, that's about the size of it.

Once a woman was proud of the title. It meant Woman of the House (or Mistress of the House if you weren't married). It gave her a status. She was respected by her family, her neighbors and, most important, herself.

Today it has many connotations, most of them uncomplimentary. It means drudge, dope, sucker, parasite; it means nagging, futility, restlessness, sexlessness, dependence on who is calling the shot.

Take a look at your average housewife on a TV commercial. She is portrayed as being so dumb it makes you wince, as she raves over some cruddy soap or new instant coffee.

And in the TV family series shows, she's even more sickening. All sweetness and light, with the knowing look, the coy smile, and just the right word at the right time, to solve the family crisis. She is shown as a materialistic, manipulator of her half-witted husband.

Real housewives aren't like this at all. Within practically every one of them lies a caged tigress, flaming passion, an artistic soul, bludgeoned to near-death by dishes and drudgery and husbands who love their cars more than her, and kids who treat her like a door-mat.

After 20 years of being mauled by family and house, the "housewife" realizes she's been had. But it's usually too late. She is physically pooped, mentally rusty, 30 pounds overweight and realizes with a deep shock that she may have 100 skills in the house, but not one that is being sought in the want ads.

This rude awakening can lead to all sorts of things: the gin bottle; the tranquilizer; growing obesity; and in some cases, a revolution that cuts all her adhesions and

puts her into the world as a woman, something she hasn't had time to think about for 20 years.

And it's all so unnecessary. Why should an intelligent woman, who has something to contribute to society, be shackled to a house and family for two decades, doing work she hates, when it could be done as well or better by someone who enjoys it?

There are thousands of young women in this country who have no pretensions, or even interest, in intellectual or business careers. Yet they have all the things thousands of housewives and mothers don't; placid temperaments; a pleasure in simple tasks, well done; a good way with children; warm hands and kind hearts.

Why aren't they looking after homes and children, while women who have an urge to create and compete and do things are released to have a whack at them?

It's because "domestic help" has a certain social stigma attached to it. It needn't have. We don't need or want "slaves" any more. But we do need young women who could be trained as housekeepers, placed in jobs, and given decent wages.

They could be trained as rigidly as nurses, but wouldn't need the educational standards, nor the length of time to qualify. White smocks and shoes, a professional organization, good training and wages, and many a girl who is sweating in a factory would leap at the job. And there'd be no shortage of jobs.

Objections? The kids would miss mother love, you say. Baloney. More kids are ruined by neurotic, frustrated mothers than ever would be by a kind, judicious girl who came in every day.

The family closeness would be broken? Nonsense. Families are so close now that they're smothering each other.

Finally, the payment of such a new vocation should be tax deductible for women who want to, or have to work.

If I were ten years younger, I'd organize a training school and placement service, call them "The Girls in White" and make a fortune.



Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 27, 1948.

Almost \$15,000 in stolen bonds and securities was found in Guelph -- part of the loot of a \$200,000 hold-up of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Campbellville nearly a year ago. Interest coupons clipped to date on most of the bonds led the police to believe that they had been placed only a short time ago in the vacant lot where they had been found. A few weeks ago a large quantity of bonds were discovered on a bridge in Montreal. A Hamilton boy playing on a lot found a cache of bonds, securities and war savings certificates stuffed into a piece of an old inner tube. The bank in Campbellville was held up on July 12, 1947 by three men who had painted their faces as disguises. A fourth man drove the getaway car.

The regular meeting of the Milton Public Home and School Association was held in the Theatre on Friday last, May 21 in the form of a delightful Empire Day pageant, interspersed with choruses, which was presented by the pupils of the Public School to a packed house. Much of the credit goes to the staff of our school who so ably directed this afternoon's entertainment. The Whewell banner was won by Miss Gemmill for the highest regular pupil attendance during the year. Mrs. Whewell and her room won a painting, "A Boy and A Rabbit" for having the most parents at the regular meetings during the year.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 30, 1918.

\$20.00 weekly showing samples for large grocery corporation, all goods sold at factory prices to consumers, granulated sugar 6 and one half cents, pure lard five pound pail, \$1, Gold or Surprise Soap 7 for 25 cents. Everything at cut rates. Men wanted everywhere. Free sample case... The Consumers' Association, Windsor, Ontario. On and after next Saturday, the business hours of all Canadian banks will be changed on account of the enlistments and drafting of so many bank clerks. The hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturdays 9:30 to 12. Patrons are asked to do their business in the morning so that there will be no rush at closing hour.

We have been requested by the authorities to say that if automobile drivers do not obey the law they will be prosecuted, and that this is the last warning that will be given.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, May 28, 1868.

We give on the best authority a big fish story from Bronte. A few days ago Messrs. William Spiers and William Emerson, caught below Hixon's dam a sturgeon measuring five feet, five inches and weighing 67 pounds.

The late rain storm carried away the bridge at Stewarttown and the mill-dam. Two houses inhabited by families were carried several hundred feet down the stream, much to the alarm of the inmates. A bridge also at the corner of the Sixth Line, Trafalgar, and the Base Line Esquesing was carried away but has since been repaired.

We received too late for insertion last week from our Acton correspondent, an account of the robbery of Captain Allan's watch and money, which agrees with our account derived from a different source. The money lost was \$40. About a month ago, Acton was the scene of another burglary; money to the amount of \$13, being abstracted from the house of Mr. C. Wiegner, Tinsmith, who had left his shop for a few minutes to get a tool which was lent to a neighbor. As yet, no clue has been obtained of the perpetrator of these daring burglaries, but we hope soon to chronicle his apprehension.

PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



FAIR ATTENDANCE VETERANS T. J. Peacock, William Scott, Henry Turner. Front row: Archibald McGibbon, Jim Wilson, T. J. Chisholm, J. J. Wilson, David Featherston, Matthew Dice and R. J. Campbell. The picture was probably taken in 1914 or 1915 when J. J. Wilson, the man seated between the two recipients, was president of the fair board.

Chisholm of Hornby and David Featherston of Drumquin are seen in this picture wearing the membership jewels awarded to them for attendance at Milton Fair for 50 consecutive years. Also in the group left to right are, back row: Henry and George Wilson, John Blacklock, Dr. Carbert. Middle row: Tom Graham, Mr. McCann, George Gastle, Henry