



Nap Laurendeau Sr. . .



. . . . and Nap Jr.

After 104 years in area

Laurendeaus leave King Street

by Shirley Whittington
Another historic name is disappearing from Midland's main street. For over a hundred years, the Laurendeaus have operated a store on King Street. Now the curtains are drawn, and the store is sold.

The Laurendeau legend began in 1871 when Napoleon Sr. travelled from Plessisville Quebec to Waubushene. "The Maid of Midland" carried him by water to Midland, where he rented a small store in the Courtemanche block.

Nap was a shoemaker and he plied his trade in a \$5-a-month lean-to, which was neither lathed nor plastered.

Clare, and on her wedding day she walked from her farm home in Wyebridge to meet her groom. The pair travelled to Penetanguishene by buckboard, and the ceremony was performed by Father Laboreau.

Alf Courtemanche was godfather to the Laurendeau youngsters Mary, Eliocadie, Napoleon Jr. and Celina.

About this time, Nap Laurendeau began to acquire property — a store, two houses on Midland Avenue and two houses on the corner of Dominion and Midland Avenues.

School. He, and John and Alex Patterson put on a dance in the school itself, complete with beer, cheese and biscuits. Thanks to the hungry and thirsty dancers, the school got its bell.

Napoleon Laurendeau Sr. died in 1935, and his son continued to carry on the family business, which he expanded into a wholesale distributorship.

Nap Jr. felt very strongly that pool was a gentleman's game. "He ran a tight ship," said one Midlander. "There were spittoons in the place, and if you missed the doorknob, you were shown the door, and not invited back."

(Mrs. Laurendeau's brother, Felix, was the unofficial bouncer.)

As well as operating his business and his "gentleman's pool hall," Nap Laurendeau Jr. was an ardent curler, and served as director and vice-president of the Arena Gardens Ltd. During the forties he was president of St. Margaret's Athletic Association.

He died in 1962, two days after his eightieth birthday. For a time, the family carried on in the business.

The pool room is closed now, and the ancient Brunswick tables are gone. Last week, the confectionary and gift side of the business closed too. The building has been sold, after a century on Midland's King Street, the Laurendeau sign will be coming down.

Shop opened in 1903
Tobacco Shop and Poolroom went up in 1903 on the east side of King Street. The business was taken over by Nap Jr. in 1923.

The elder Laurendeau was a public spirited man who contributed a great deal to the town where he worked and lived. There is a story about his efforts to raise money to buy a bell for the old Manly

A haven for captains
The Laurendeau establishment was a haven for lake boat captains. "They used to play very complicated games of English billiards," says one old timer. "The stakes were high — as much as \$2,500 at times."

But his granddaughter, Mrs. Roy H. Reynolds, a Vancouver travel agent, intends to see that the Laurendeau name remains in the business world. She is planning on opening a store in Vancouver — an electrical lighting supply house — and she's going to call it Laurendeau's.

He met his bride at Firth's Corners too. Catherine Guthrie was an Irish girl from Ennistymon, County

From U.K. for three months

Young farmers visit county

Margaret Wilson came from Glasgow in June to spend three months on Ontario farms to see how and in what ways farming in Canada is different from that in her native Scotland.

Although she is the daughter of a farmer, she herself is involved in medical research as a lab technician and for the last three years she has been on a project concerned with multiple sclerosis.

Fortunately, she said, the fortune upon which the program was being financed ran out shortly before she was due to come for this trip to Canada.

growing contrasted markedly with the countryside at home. She has also spent time in Middlesex and Bruce Counties before coming to Simcoe County which, with its rolling hills, is more like home, she said.

There have been real advantages in her trip. Basically this has been her first extended tour away from home and meeting new people has broadened her outlook. Every family with which she has stayed has been different and she said these differences have broadened her outlook. When a reporter visited her last Friday afternoon she was at the home of

Grant Robinson on the third concession of Medonte Township.

What comes next after a visit such as this for a Young Farmer from Scotland? Margaret isn't sure exactly what is in store but she anticipates that for some time she will be sharing her experiences with various groups of people in Scotland.

She has been taking a series of slides during her visit and keeping an open diary of her trip. She will be showing these pictures with various Young Farmers and talking about what she has learned on her trip.

Before she leaves Canada Margaret and some of the other young farmers from Britain who are also visiting in Canada at this time hope to travel to the west coast by rental car. They hope that this trip, although necessarily brief, will give them some sense of Canada as a whole which they could miss when travelling by air.

Whatever impressions she carries back to Scotland they will certainly be diverse and she anticipates being able to share this variety of experience with many people when she returns home.

At home, Margaret is active in a group called the "Young Farmers", the British counterpart to our Junior Farmers and 4-H programs. This involvement is natural considering her farm background. But in addition, she said, she spends most of her spare time involved in the activities of the Young Farmers group. It was through this involvement that she was chosen to come for this Canadian visit.

Home for Margaret is a dairy farm about eight miles south of Glasgow with approximately 45 head of cattle. In addition they grow hay, barley, and grass silage.

When asked what were the basic differences between the Canadian farming situation and that at home, she commented that one of the most visible differences lay in the style of buildings on the farms. At home, she said, the buildings are mostly single storey and so each would cover a larger area. But as regards the actual techniques involved they are much the same she said.

There has been considerable variation in the types of farming she has been exposed to. She started her visit to Ontario in the Niagara area and the flat ground and predominant fruit



Thinking it over

Margaret Wilson is currently visiting in Simcoe County as part of exchange program which sees a number of "Young Farmers" from Britain spend several months observing farming

methods in a number of different counties in Ontario. She also hopes to see western Canada before returning to her native Scotland.

Staff photo

College head in area to discuss course programs

While their students are enjoying sunshine filled summer holidays a group of approximately 22 area teachers are going to s c h o o l in Penetanguishene 15 hours a week to upgrade their teaching qualifications.

Many teachers take university courses during the summer to finish their Bachelor of Arts Degree or advance along the degree circuit but until last summer teachers had

to look outside of this area for post-secondary school courses. Glendon College, a bilingual, liberal arts faculty of Toronto's York University, first offered

courses last year in Penetanguishene. This summer Glendon professors returned again, to offer a French immersion course and a 20th Century French drama course (taught in French). And according to Helje Porre (a professor from the French Department in Glendon and teacher of the summer drama course) teaching the teachers is a "really enjoyable" experience. To date she is three weeks into her five week course and still maintaining a 100 percent attendance record, something which would seem to speak well of the teachers interest in

the course. Although the summer course is terribly intense — "You really have to read like mad," Professor Porre says — most of the teachers are keeping up with the reading.

Glendon's two summer courses will be finished at the end of the first week in August but the college intends to continue offering courses in the fall.

At the end of September Glendon officials hope to start a 25 week night school program offering university credit courses. The number and kind of courses to be taught will depend on what sort of courses people from this area indicate they want.



Anne Gagne listens while Glendon College principal Dr. David McQueen outlines some of the courses York University's bilingual faculty can offer to students from this area. McQueen

visited Penetanguishene last Friday to meet students interested in taking Glendon courses at Penetanguishene in the fall.

Staff photo



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189⁹⁹

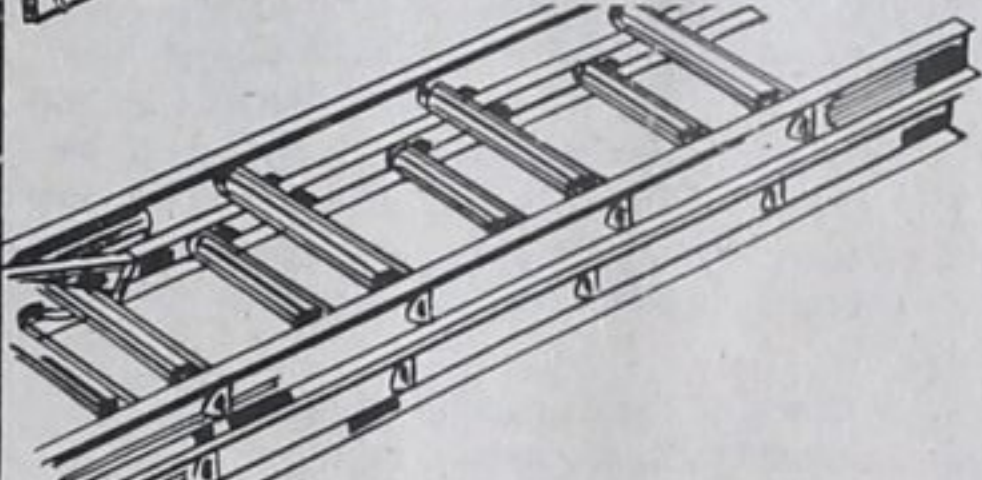
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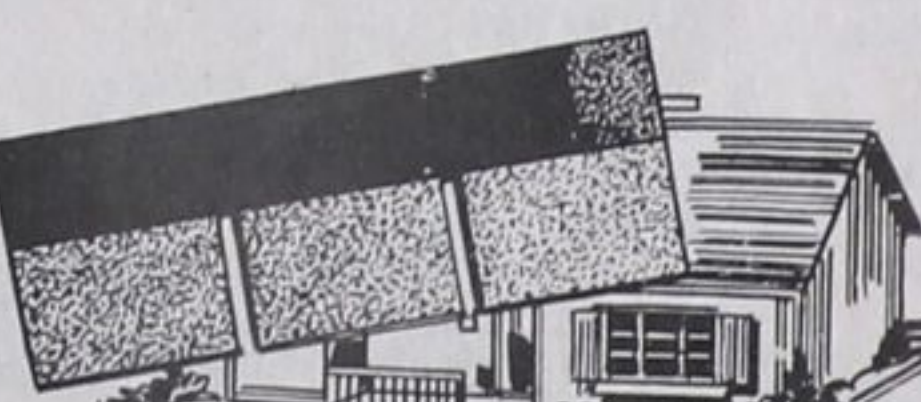
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