

Fire Completely Destroys One Of Oakville's Landmarks

Every Housewife Should Be Interested

Proper well balanced diets are essential to physical fitness and the health of the nation was never more important than it is at the moment.

The health of the family lies largely in the hands of the cook. The growing shortages of various items and the increased cost of foodstuffs makes the planning of meals a real problem.

Diet has become of nation-wide interest and courses in nutrition will soon begin in Oakville.

On Friday, February 27th, Dr. McHenry of the School of Hygiene of the University of Toronto, will give an illustrated lecture on nutrition and its effects, in the Masonic Hall at 2.45 p.m. Every housewife is urged to be present as Dr. McHenry is an outstanding authority and a most interesting speaker.

After the meeting those desiring to do so may enroll for the course of 8 lessons which will be held in the Clinic at Central School.

Your health and that of your family may be greatly improved by your attendance.

Bantam League

| | P | W | L | Pts. |
|----------|---|---|---|------|
| Rotary | 6 | 5 | 1 | 10 |
| Appleby | 5 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
| Lions | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Bus. Men | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

Guests Escape Through Flames and Smoke

About 3 p.m. Monday fire broke out in the Hotel Gibson. Flames rushed from basement to attic. Dense smoke shrouded the building, pouring from every opening and greatly impeding the work of the fire brigade.

Mr. Megaffin, proprietor of the hotel, assisted his wife, their 18 month old daughter and his sister Mrs. Harley Dunsheath from the burning, smoke filled building. Mrs. Dunsheath, who was preparing for a bath, was forced to make a hurried exit clad in a housecoat.

Mr. J. H. Hastings, proprietor of the United Cigar Store, who was resting, escaped through a window and over the roof. Tom Richardson, the chef, was nearly overcome by smoke. Walter Climuk, the clerk, grabbed the cash register, which was about the only thing saved.

Practically all the guests lost everything except the clothes they wore and the building and contents were a complete loss. Although no accurate appraisal has been made, Mr. Megaffin, who purchased the business in July 1941, places the loss in excess of \$50,000.

Since purchasing the property Mr. Megaffin has made extensive alternations and improvements. The loss is partially covered by insurance and Mr. Megaffin said that re-building will commence as soon as possible.

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1940s

Apple Thief Interrupted Eludes Police Dragnet

Lorne Scots Draw Winners

The annual Christmas Draw of the Lorne Scots, "B" Coy, took place following the Tuesday night parade, with His Worship Mayor F. M. Deans drawing the following names:

1. G. D. Stephenson, Toronto;
2. Mrs. M. P. Clark, Burlington;
3. P. L. Paul, Oakville;
4. V. Barry, Oakville;
5. Helen Fitzgerald, Oakville;
6. Dr. Wilkinson, Oakville;
7. R. W. Brodie, Oakville;
8. A. R. Smyth, Toronto;
9. J. Eaton, Aldershot;
10. Fred Searlett, Toronto;
11. C.S.M. Carney, Georgetown;
12. Capt. Pattenick, Brampton;
13. R. Shilling, Oakville;
14. W. Dwan and M. Morris, Toronto;
15. Stan. Wright, Oakville;
16. E. R. Hoare, Toronto;
17. C. J. Callan, Oakville;
18. Les. McAllister, Port Nelson;
19. B. H. Bloodsworth, Hamilton;
20. J. Hart, Oakville;
21. M. Beattie, Toronto;
22. Fredington, Oakville;
23. Dick Mendoza, Toronto.

Uses Stolen Car In Attempted Theft

About 4 a.m. Sunday, Mr. Reg. Smith and his family, who live about 2 miles west of town, were awakened by the barking of their dog.

Investigation revealed a break-in at the apple storage plant. Before the Smith family could get action the thief fled through the orchard toward the Lakeshore highway. Constable Lew Patterson of Bronte was summoned and he in turn called Provincial Officer Allie Jackson.

Motorists were stopped to block roads and one group spotted the thief running, sneaking across the highway. The alarm was given and the chase was lost but a moonless night favoured the fugitive and he eluded his pursuers.

Left in the Smith's yard was a car stolen from a Hamilton parking lot and six cases of apples sitting beside it.

Fire destroyed the Hotel Gibson in 1942 as this Record-Star story of Feb. 19, states. And the Murray House, which still stands today, was almost destroyed exactly one year later as the story in the Feb. 11, 1943, Record-Star indicates. Police went to great lengths to capture the notorious apple thief according to the Dec. 23, 1943 issue but as can be seen from the 1943 police report, juvenile crime was "one of the most perplexing problems that the police have to deal with and Oakville is no exception to other places." Immediately below is a classic story, the stuff of fiction.

Don Hillmer's Cigarette Case Stops Bullet And Saves Life

Enlisted When Only 17½ Years Of Age

Sgt. Don Hillmer, air gunner, R.C.A.F., has had a narrow escape according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Hillmer.

Here is what Don says: "I owe my life to my cigarette case. A bullet, evidently with my initials on it, struck the case. I am sorry to say it is no more. It shook me up a bit but I'm O.K., so don't worry. With luck like that I'll be alright."

On Feb. 3rd, 1943, at the age of 17½ years, Don enlisted in the R.C.A.F. and arrived overseas on March 17th, this year.

In June his parents had a letter stating that he then had completed 13 operational flights.

Chief Of Police Submits Report For Activities During 1943

Police & Public Order Committee of the Council of the Town of Oakville.

Gentlemen: I have the honour to submit this my annual report of the Police Department for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1943.

Offences: There were 278 offences heard by the different Magistrates during the year. 15 were committed to the goal, 31 allowed a suspended sentence, 45 charges were dismissed, 4 charges withdrawn, 183 paid fines.

Lost and Stolen Property: Lost and stolen property to the value of \$14,439.00 was recovered and returned to rightful owners; \$3,390.00 reported lost or stolen and not as yet recovered.

Occurrences: We received 720 reports from other towns and cities requesting us to be on the look-out for stolen property, men wanted, people missing, etc. 345 local re-

ports were received and attended to. Doors and Windows Found Open — 59 doors of business places were found open by Constables on night duty and owners notified.

House and Shopbreaking: 9 places of business and 7 private homes were entered during the year; 22 persons appeared in court on the charges and warrants have been issued for the arrest of others.

Automobile and Bicycle Thefts— 16 motor vehicles were reported stolen from town and all recovered; three of the automobiles were stripped of the tires; 33 bicycles were recovered by the police, the licensing of bicycles has been a great help as bicycles stolen from here have been recovered in Trenton, Hamilton, Brampton, Toronto, and other places; 3 have been stolen and not recovered.

Accidents: 10 accidents took place within the town limits, five

people received medical attention; 1 drowning; property damage amounted to less than \$500, as compared to \$1,930 in 1942.

Juveniles: Very sorry to report that we had 46 juvenile offenders before the courts during the year. Juvenile crime is one of the most perplexing problems that the police have to deal with and Oakville is no exception to other places. The above number of juveniles does not consist of all the juveniles that require the attention of the Department, many who had committed petty offences were given a good lecture by the police in place of starting a juvenile court record against them, and we wish to thank the committee that was appointed and the Social Clubs who have shown an interest in our juvenile offenders.

Curr. Fines: \$784.00 collected in fines; the Ontario Government re-

ceived 40 per cent. and 60 per cent.

Poll Tax: \$204.00 collected and paid to Town.

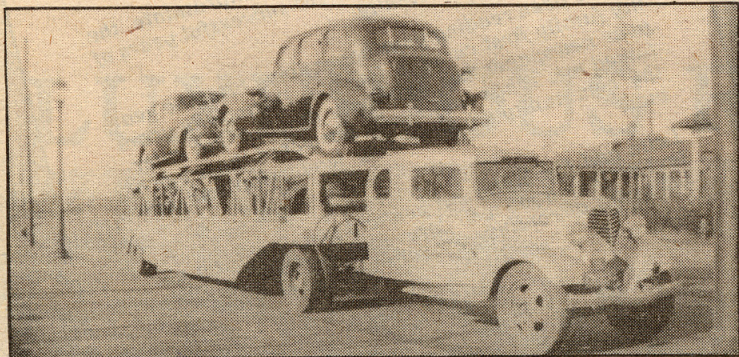
Licenses Collected: \$1 collected in licenses.

The control of unlawful acts in the community can be improved by closer co-operation between the public and and in this matter I press my appreciation to citizens who have given assistance to the department, and assure them that we are greatly appreciated.

Hoping that this report with the approval of His the Mayor and member Council, I am,

Yours respectful
DAVID
Chief

THEN



and now



History of Maris Transport

Maris Automobile Transport Limited is one of the original automobile carriers established in the mid 1920's, based in Oshawa, Ontario, "hauling" and transporting automobiles and commercial vehicles to delivery points in Southern Ontario.

The original owner, Mr. Thomas Maris, operated the business until his untimely death in 1946 after which, his wife, Ada B. Maris, carried on until 1952.

Subsequent to Mr. Maris' death, the Company had the misfortune of losing some business. However, not to be daunted, Mrs. Ada B. Maris sought and obtained Ford Motor Company of Canada business, originating in Windsor, for delivery into Southern Ontario, and proceeded to move the complete operation from Oshawa to 1611 St. Luke Road in Windsor.

Mrs. Maris continued to operate from Windsor until 1952 when a decision was made to sell the Company assets to Herbert "Barney" Quinn, formerly with the Ford Motor Company of Canada and Nu-Car Carriers Inc. in the United States.

Mr. Quinn, as the new owner, formed a new company, MARIS TRANSPORT LIMITED, and maintained the continuity of the operations from the St. Luke site in Windsor.

In mid 1953, the Ford Motor Company of Canada had completed construction of the Oakville Assembly Plant, and shortly thereafter shipments of new vehicles commenced, which ultimately required Maris Transport Limited to establish their vehicle maintenance facilities and general offices in the Oakville area.

The Company purchased two acres (the front half of our present location) and in 1958 completed construction of a maintenance garage (6 bays) and accounting offices. Maris continued to operate under the Quinns' management until December 18, 1968, at which time Mr. Donald C. Hayden, president of E & L Transport Ltd. purchased Maris Transport Limited. This purchase created a needed link between Canada and United States in the movement of automobiles in international traffic.

In the intervening years of the Maris and E & L Transport management and control, the fleet was increased from 17 tractors and trailers to our current fleet of 150. Since 1951 our staff and driver personnel has increased from 28 employees to our present number of 225.

