

### Local History Essay

"The Fire Hall and Clock."  
(By Evelyn McDonald)

The firehall was built when the waterworks was installed in 1899 by W. J. Stark. Mr. James Ratcliff wanted the firehall built on Mill st. Mr. Stark defeated him in an election on the issue and built the firehall on its present site. The contract was let to Mr. Nathan Forsythe who was paid \$675 and later \$150 for cells to provide a jail. Later the late Jacob Burkholder built an addition to the firehall for a Public Library, but it was finally taken for a council chambers and clerk's office.

In 1935 a new fire siren was installed with an automatic switch; prior to this they used a fire bell. In 1937 a new addition was built to the council chambers including fire-proof vaults, an electric room, public lavatories and hot water system throughout the building. A new fire trucks were bought in 1937.

The clock tower was built by public subscription, and a donation from the council in 1931. Mr. Morden was reeve. The clock tower was to be brick and the contract was let to Mr. F. W. Betz. Mr. Holden gave a car away to help pay for the tower. The total cost of the tower was \$1350. The clock came from Croydon, England, and was donated by Miss Elizabeth Percy. The four dials of the clock were to be illuminated after dark so as to give a full 24 hour service. The local jeweller, Mr.

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### Farmerettes Report for Fruit Picking



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Pollard, installed the clock works. On September 7th, 1931 the clock was officially dedicated to the municipality by a short ceremony in front of the firehall. Dr. Ira Freel opened the address in front of a great number of citizens. Dr. D. C. Smith then

took the platform and officially handed the clock over to the municipality. During the address little Kenneth Klihck came to the platform with a large bouquet for Miss Percy, who was present from the U.S.A. for

the occasion. Fifty-three names are inscribed on a tablet in the Municipal Hall of those who donated to the \$1,300 required to build the tower to house the Percy Memorial Clock.

### Takes Ten Days for Dangerous Driving on 8th concession of Whitchurch Twp.

"The accident has cost me enough now, so I will take the ten days," Clarence Wass, Toronto, told the magistrate at Newmarket court, when he was fined \$20 for taking a party out in an old crate of a car to Musselman's Lake and landing upside down in the ditch.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to a charge of dangerous driving in Whitchurch on May 11.

"Early in the morning, about 1.25 a.m., I was called to the scene of an accident on the eighth concession of Whitchurch," testified Constable Robert Windsor. "I found a car in the west ditch facing north. There was no one at the scene at all. I stayed about ten minutes and then drove into the doctor's office in Stouffville. As I was going into the village I noticed two girls. One was limping. I questioned them."

The officer stated that he took the defendant's car to the garage and that he did not see the defendant until nine o'clock in the morning, when he came to get the car.

"Did he give any reason for the accident?" asked Crown Attorney N. L. Matheys, K.C.

"He said that he thought he struck a bump in the road and that it threw him out of his course," replied the witness.

Describing the marks on the road the officer stated that apparently the defendant's car, which was going south, had left the pavement on the east shoulder of the road and travelled about 250 feet when the brakes were applied for 50 feet. Marks showed that the car had swerved to the west side of the road and then slid along on its side, ending up facing north in the west ditch. The top of the car was completely smashed and the left rear wheel broken off. He said that he could see nothing on the same road to cause the accident.

Joseph Foot, Stouffville, who was driving north on the same road at the time of the accident, said that he saw the car lights approaching in the distance and that they suddenly disappeared. At first he thought the red taillight at the side of the road was a truck and as he approached he saw the passengers. He took them to a doctor's office.

In his defence Mr. Wass told his worship that he was driving the car at between 40 and 50 miles an hour when suddenly it swerved off the road. At the time he did not know what caused the car to swerve but later learned that a bolt had "sheered off the brakes." He said it was a 1928 car.

"Thank God, it is busted up, it won't be on the road again," commented his worship.

Questioning further about the car, the court learned that the car has since been repaired and that the defendant had driven to the police court in it.

"Your worship was a little premature when you expressed thanks for the car being off the road," said the crown.

Asked if he had been drinking, Mr. Wass replied that he did not drink.

"Where did you go?" asked his worship. The defendant said that he was returning to Toronto from Musselman's Lake with five others when the accident occurred.

"Do you mean to say that you took five people to Musselman's Lake in that old jalopy?"

"Yes," replied the defendant.

"Well, all I can say is that they were fools to go in a thing like that," stated the magistrate.

According to the evidence of Dennis Lynch, Toronto, passenger in the Wass car, he did not know what happened, only that they were going down a hill "when the left back wheel broke off and the car ended upside down on the side of road."

Aske if they had had anything to drink, the witness stated that they had three dozen pints of beer among five of them, but that the defendant did not have any, as he did not drink.

When asked by his worship if he was working, Clarence Wass said that he was earning \$20 a week.

"I am fining you a week's pay, \$20 and costs or ten days," stated his worship. "You won't forget this accident in a hurry."

"I'll take the ten days," answered the defendant. "It has cost me enough already. It wasn't my fault. It was the fault of the car."

### ONTARIO COUNTY WEED INSPECTORS MEET AT UXBRIDGE

Ontario County Weed Inspectors Road Superintendents, Municipal Councillors and farmers met on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. standard time in the Agricultural Office, Uxbridge to discuss Weed Control on Road sides and on farms in Ontario County.

Weed control is becoming more important on farms each year. Farmers are realizing the losses due to weeds probably more in the past few years than ever before. Bladder Campion, Sowthistle, Bindweed, Ragweed and many other troublesome weeds have in many districts caused tremendous losses and are difficult to control.

Chemicals have been introduced which have proved very fine in controlling roadside weeds and rapidly-spreading weeds.

### STREAMLINED FOODS

Because of the acute shipping shortage, food items for shipment to Britain are being selected for high vitamin and calorie content, also for minimum bulk and weight. In general preference will be given to concentrated and dried foods, rather than bulky canned goods such as fruits, which contain a considerable amount of water. Tomatoes are an exception because the juice they are packed in is high in vitamins. One item urgently desired by the British is dehydrated vegetable soup, twelve tons of which will make 700,000 bowls. A plan is under consideration to transport some of this concentrated food in the big bombers being ferried across the Atlantic, which can easily carry a ten-ton load.

In putting their savings into Victory Loan bonds and War Savings Certificates the workers of Canada are insuring a wider distribution of wealth after the war.

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