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LADIES' Half Slips

1.00

Nylon and acetate fabric with shadow panel.

Size S-M-L
Colours: White, Sugar Pink, Fan Blue, Bamboo & Aqua.

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WITH EVEREADY BATTERIES

Handy magnetic case. Easily attached to car or any metal surface.

FLASHLIGHT complete with 2 Eveready Batteries

99c Holiday Special

Buy a pair and a spare

Special for 97c

You get the wear of 2 pr. hose which is worth \$2.00. Seamless mesh. Save \$1.03

Wedge Shaped Boat or Car Cushions

89c

A must for travelling.

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1.98

Heavy duty plastic with drawstring. Colours: Powder Panama, Red and Black.

We Have Fizzies THE INSTANT SPARKLING DRINK!

Needs no sugar. 29c

Make 8 big drinks. Low in calories with added Vitamin C.

Due to Popular Demand

We are still running our

Blanket & Bedding Sale

Exceptional Values. Name Brand Blankets.

5.88

Reg. \$10.95

Ladies' Rayon Tricot Briefs

39c

Lace leg or Band legs in new high shades plus white.

Small, Medium, Large.

6-FOOT Circular Wading Pools

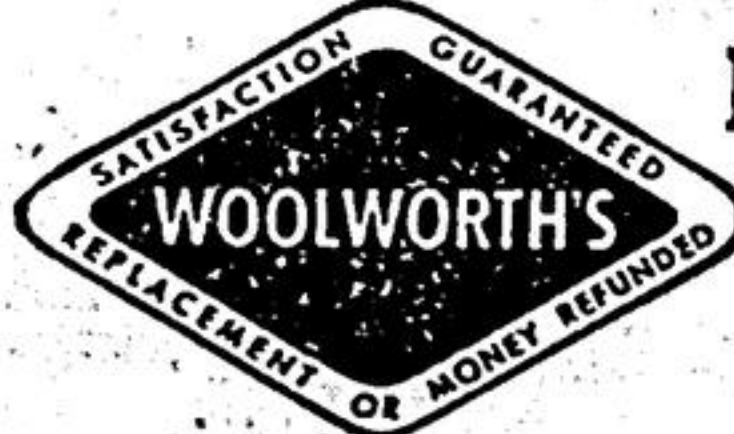
2.49

Colourful, Durable Plastic.

See Our Complete Selection of Rugs

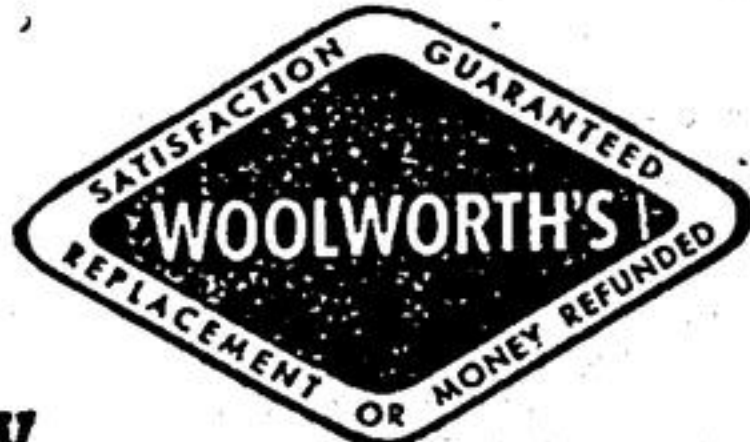
in both solid and tweed pattern, sized from scatter rugs to 9' x 12'.

Economically Priced



Woolworth's Lay-Away Plan

Completely Air-Conditioned



Early Life In Almira Community Recalled by Native Resident

(Geo. Cober)

I started farming in 1907 on Lot 31, Concession 5, Markham, near Almira. I purchased the farm from Simeon Wideman for \$4,000, as well as the 12½ acres west of the fifth owned by the Widemans. All farms were worked by horses, as there were no tractors. Neither were there automobiles or telephones. I would like to give you the names of my neighbours within a 2½ mile radius of my farm.

Starting at Walter Scotts Sr., Allan McKinnon, Ernest Casley, Isaac Brumwell, Wm. Mustard and later John Woods and Geo. Hunt. From the school, William MacKay, Nelson Mustard, Francy Brothers later Nelson Street, Herbert Jarvis and Jacob Smith. The Mennonite Church, then Robert Agar, Adam Wideman 50 acres, Will McNair, Wm. Burkholder, Randal Chapman, Jesse Cober.

Next 50 — Nehemiah Gayman, Edwin Jewett. Next farm Elias Degeer, Art Summerville, Alexander Crossley, Christian Wideman, Robert Msad, Robert Bruce, Bruce Brothers, Will Alexander Duncan, James Duncan. Coming back to Almira sideroad, Arthur Spofford, William Levenstone, the blacksmith shop, then Samuel B. Lehman, the mill and Almira store, then Chris. Gayman and my own farm. Simeon Wideman, Edward Meyers, Alfred Stover, Samuel Wideman, Thomas Doner and Francy Brothers. Out of all these people, there are only Mrs. Jacob Smith Sr., Mrs. Wm. MacKay, Mrs. Willis Lehman, Miss Nettie Bruce, and my wife and myself who are still living.

I would like to mention some of the people with whom I did business, and their characteristics. Rev. Christian Gayman was one of the biggest men in the neighbourhood. He was an outstanding man at barn raisings, and also did a lot of butchering for the neighbours. He was a very sociable man, and visited the sick regularly. Rev. Samuel Wideman also spent much time visiting his church members. He raised a family of five boys and one daughter, and they all became farmers. Rev. Thomas Doner, minister of the Tunker church at Heise Hill, now owned by Dave Empringham who later moved to Clarence Centre, was one of the last descendants of Elder Christian Stickle who came from Pa., U.S.A. Elder Stickle was the first minister of the church in 1808 when it was organized in Markham District. Francy Brothers were good farmers. William was a hard working man. He was a bee-keeper and took a deep interest in his neighbours' farms. Robert also did a lot of hard work. He would team hay to Toronto sometimes three times a week. The 25 mile drive home on a hay rack over rough roads was not too pleasant. The highest price he ever received for his hay was \$9.00 a ton. He did, however, accumulate considerable wealth, and donated the parsonage of Melville church. Another brother James was a school teacher.

When I first came to this place the farmers did their own road work. I will never forget when Christian Wideman was path master and the gravel was procured from Francy's pit. Everyone helped and a considerable amount of gravel was placed on the roads. In the winter when the roads were blocked with snow, Mr. Wideman would take his fat horses and drive through the snow banks, that is, after we had shovelled the top off the banks. Mr. Wideman was a good farmer and liked to accomplish a lot, especially on threshing days. I recall one time he wanted to have the barn cleaned out in a day, so Lewis Stoutenberger started at 6:30 a.m., after dinner at 12:30 and worked until 6 o'clock, making 11 hours (threshing time, which was the longest day's work I had seen done. Mr. Wideman was getting for being a good horseman.

Robert Agar was a good neighbour. He successfully grew alfalfa, and went to all the barn raisings. Tobias Wideman was also among the best men at that time. Mr. Agar and his neighbour Christian Wideman were always at sawing bees, and were wonderful in organizing bees for anyone building a house or a barn. I certainly appreciated their help at this time.

Robert Mead started as a hired man and was a good farmer. He was careful and died a very wealthy man. Alexander Duncan lived on the Isaac Brumwell farm. He was a road commissioner for a number of years and the Township used to have a stone crusher and Mr. Duncan put the crusher in my field, which I sold to Fred Hisey, and took 70 yards of crushed stone off the front of the field. Mr. Duncan was a wonderful man for the job and kept the roads in good order for many years.

Another Alexander Duncan resided in the neighbourhood. He raised a large family and his brother James occupied the north farm. They were both successful farmers. Their father came from Scotland approximately the same time as the Bruce family were devout workers in the Presbyterian church. Robert Bruce worked 200 acres of some of the best land in the township. His father Robert Bruce Sr. built the large barn and D. W. Heise was the carpenter.

It being his first barn, Mr. Bruce spoke before they chose sides warning everyone to be careful so no one would be hurt. Mr. A. D. Bruce ran the mill which had been in Bruce Brothers name since 1842. It was purchased from Casper Sherker. They used to chop grain for 4 cents per 100 lbs. They made flour, and did a big business. They used to have to keep the long lane open in the winter, and gravelled at their own expense. I always liked A. D. Bruce's way of doing business. He was a well informed man in every way and a good historian. Robert Francy was also noted for his historic facts about the neighbourhood, and I used to like to visit him. He was also one of the best businessmen of his day.

he with Herb Spofford, Percy Spofford and William MacKay played with the Locust Hill Clippers football team and won the Ontario championship.

The storekeepers were George Baker, Mr. Buck and Herb Spofford who remodelled the store.

The last blacksmith I can remember was William Mustard. I used to feel sorry for the blacksmiths. I recall one day when it was very icy, I went to William Hunt's shop at Bethesda. I was so relieved to get there. Mr. Hunt did all the work alone, and it was certainly enough for two men. I did not get home until dark. The long hours Mr. Hunt worked proved he was a good man to stand it.

The threshers were: Albert Hunt for the first year; he then purchased a farm; his brother James and Lewis Stoutenberger, when we had to fill the tank twice a day. Then Ernest Hunt, John Cober and Ralph Baker threshed with gasoline. All were good threshers, but I have not known any to get wealthy, as the upkeep was expensive.

I want to mention Robson Jewett who worked out by the day, and worked hard for the farmers. He had his own tools and was efficient at any job, and he never over-charged. I, for one, appreciated his work. In later years I valued Mr. James Painter who used to help me out.

During the time our children went to school, Jean Scott and her brother Walter were the teachers. Their father was a prosperous farmer and his children all became teachers and held high positions in various places. Miss McDermont, Allen Meyer, Miss Best and Miss Kate Rescor were some of the teachers. The trustees who worked with me were Walter Scott Sr., Wm. MacKay, George Hunt and Herb Jarvis.

Someone I don't want to miss mentioning is Ernest Ratcliff who sawed wood for our neighbourhood. He had a big team of horses on his bob sleigh, a gasoline engine and a real sharp circular saw. It was his delight to cut as much wood as he could and he always satisfied the farmers and his charge was not high.

Appreciation was also given to our good veterinarians, namely George Kelly, later his son George and Dr. Storey of Stouffville who so ably looked after our sick horses and cattle. Everyone used to keep a number of horses, and they were worked hard through zero weather and snowbanks. This we won't forget.

The same can be said of our medical doctors of Stouffville, namely Dr. Alexander Sangster, his brother Walter, Dr. Ball, Dr. Dales, Dr. Freil, as well as Dr. MacKay of Unionville who all

practised during this period of time. They did their very best, and the year of the "flu" they were going day and night. In those days the doctors mixed their own medicine, and at a very reasonable cost. They had to face stormy weather and bad roads in those days with either a buggy or sleigh. It is so much easier today with an automobile.

Later in my life I sold all the land I ever owned to Allan D. Wideman, and Walter and Arthur Uens, who are so nobly looking after everything, and have made improvements. It is certainly a pleasure for me when I drive by. It is certainly an asset to them and the community. Also I don't want to forget Fred Hisey who purchased 13 acres that I bought off the Fred Johnson farm, and who gardened it for a number of years and also was successful. I also sold 12½ acres across the fifth to Roy Wideman, who I thought should rightfully have it, giving him 100 acres of land. He is also looking after it well.

In conclusion I would like to mention some points that Mr. A. D. Bruce related to me about his father Robert Bruce Sr., when he purchased the mill from Casper Sherker in 1842. At that time nearly the whole community was Pennsylvania Dutch and a number could not speak English very well, which made it difficult to do business with them. Christian Wideman Sr., a grandson of Casper Sherker, was his right hand man and he would interpret in English, and by meeting these people he soon was able to understand the German language. The Bruces and the Widemans were very close friends. Their families grew up together. Mr. Bruce told me his father held Rev. Peter Baker and Elder Samuel Baker, preachers in the Markham Tunker church near Gormley, in high esteem. They were both good farmers. The same was said of William Francy Sr. who attended that church in his last days. All these people I have mentioned and a lot more I have neglected to tell you about, were the real salt of the earth and will never be forgotten.

Man's devotion to golf, often to the exclusion of all else, is illustrated in this story about the chap who had just winged one off the first tee in an awesome slice. The ball entered the open window of a passing car. The car stopped and the driver came storming back to the golfer who was standing on the tee studying his grip.

"You just hit a ball," he said, "that came right through my car window and knocked my wife senseless. Now what are you going to do about it?"

"I think," said the golfer, still looking at his grip, "that I'll just turn my right hand over a bit and see if that straightens out that slice..."

BY BOB HESKETH

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The Stouffville Tribune

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