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Want To Open Gravel Pit At Cashel

Messrs. Timmins & Regan appeared before Markham Twp. Council last week requesting permission to open a gravel pit at lots 28 and 29, concession 6, near Cashel. Mr. Regan said the gravel on this property was the quality required by Metro in a half million ton lot. He said the distance of haul was short and that once the gravel was done the property would be left in a respectable condition. At the present time council is endeavoring to further control gravel pits throughout this particular area due to numerous complaints of unsightly caverns left on the landscape and the undue wear and tear on nearby roads. By resolution the visitors were advised that they could make application to the Ontario Municipal Board for the exemption of their particular land from the by-law governing gravel pits.

Many Industries Active In Bloomington In Late 1800's

In the early days men and women, not having the modern conveniences of 1963, were kept very busy on their farms and in their homes. Some, however, engaged in crafts which earned them a living, as well as being a benefit to the whole community. Walking down the village street about 70 or 80 years ago, you would have been surprised to hear many strange sounds in Bloomington. At the northeast corner you could hear hammering from Mr. McClane's wood-working shop, just east of Mr. Insley's lot. The other two wood-working shops were in the Old Hall and in the northwest corner of Elmer Burnett's farm. These shops made carriages, wagons, buggies, sleighs, cutters, even furniture and plain V-shaped coffins. Down the road came the clanking and rattle of the burned horse-drawn carts of Donald Matheson's blacksmith shop on the front part of Mrs. Cowie's lot, where he worked with Mr. Snider, Richard Patenden and Art Atkinson. Donald Matheson's son, John, became a successful Toronto doctor. His smithy was later moved to Elmer Burnett's farm, and is still used as a driving shed and a garage. There were two or three more blacksmith shops, one of which was situated on George Vaughan's or Earle Davis' lot. These shops kept horses' feet in condition for travelling on the gravel roads, and did repair jobs on farm implements and vehicles. Then you could hear the cickety-clack of the weaving looms. The weavers made carpets from carpet balls prepared by housewives. Mr. Tom Barnett, who lived where Clare Preston resides, and Mrs. Sten, where the Wilcocks family lives now, carried on the trade. One of the Sten sons was a veterinarian whose services were valuable in the community. At the back of Mr. Jones' property you could hear the put-putting of Chester Brumwell's tractor, who operated a chopping mill, grinding grain for the hungry farm animals. Later, when Chester moved west, he sold the tractor to Wallace Vaughan, who for about 38 years went about the country doing threshing jobs for farmers with his famous "Peppermill." His first threshing machine, of course, did not last all this time, it was replaced by a fine new model. If you could look into the open door of the Preston house, you would see Wayman Irwin tinkering in his watch repair shop. Before 1885, there was a brickyard on Warren Rae's farm, probably bricks in the farm homes of the district, if they could talk, might tell a story of the old days. How proud the first owners must have been of their substantial, roomy dwellings and how their grandchildren of the present day must appreciate the labours of their forefathers in providing these shelters from the stormy blasts of our winters. On a quiet day you might also have been able to hear the buzzing of the saw mills. There were at least three of these within a short distance of the village. One on Bartholomew's farm, ninth conc., part of which still stands; one on the line between Gordon and Alec Ratcliff's farms on the eighth conc., and one in the bush on John Williams' farm, now owned by Eldon Smith. These mills must have been kept very busy, sawing the lumber which went into the making of farm houses and barns, etc. Bloomington youngsters were always very eager to pick berries in that particular bush, because then they could watch the work at the sawmill. Down the road came creaking loads of cordwood (\$1. a cord) taken down to Stouffville by the Baker boys of Bartholomew's to a plant (at the site of the present Co-Op, and Stiver Bros.) where electricity was furnished. Still more romantic were the loads of shiplasts. Huge pines were felled and hewn with broad-axes north of the Sandhill by a gang of Frenchmen. The masts were 100 feet long, slung under the axles of the wagons, the hind wheels of the wagons sometimes being 12 or 14 feet high. The teamsters were a happy lot; you could hear them singing a mile away. They took the masts in two days down to Frenchman's Bay, where they were picked up by ships to be used on English sailing vessels. You would also have to look out for traffic, carriages on the road, and—lo and behold—for a pair of donkeys, wandering all by themselves along the dusty

road. They were owned by the Stapleton Brothers, and if they were not needed at one farm they were tied together, given a slap on their back, and off they went to the other farm to work. On your way, you may also see some Indians selling baskets. They were the parents of Sammy Snake, a pupil of Bloomington school. Every spring they came from their reserve on Snake Island in Lake Simcoe to camp on Mr. Bertram Baker's land on the 48 Highway. They weaved baskets from thin strips of basswood or willow twigs and sold them in the vicinity, thus earning a living. Yes, the good people were creative, supplying their needs and feeling happy about their achievements.

PINE ORCHARD

(June 13th)
Mrs. J. Pyle is visiting her daughter and family in Oshawa. Mrs. Rae McClure was hostess at a Stanley Party last Thursday.
Mrs. Clouther spent Thursday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McGee.
Mr. John Sytema has sold his farm.
Work has commenced on the Ferguson farm to replace the house which was destroyed by fire last year.
Miss Aleta Widdfield visited relatives Sunday in Newmarket.

Most Residents At York County Manor Are Paying Guests

Reeve Win Timbers of Stouffville, chairman of the York Manor Commission revealed some interesting figures in his report to County Council last week. One of the most interesting was the fact that out of 135 residents in the Home, only fourteen were totally financed by the county. One hundred and fourteen pay the full rate for their living and seven pay a portion.

Some concern was expressed about the number of bed patients, this ward being completely filled at the present time. He said it was the policy of the Board to accept any applicants regardless of their financial status. This policy, he said, might have to be altered and the committee was recommending that only indigent persons and applicants with limited assets be accepted, those who cannot afford to stay in a nursing home.

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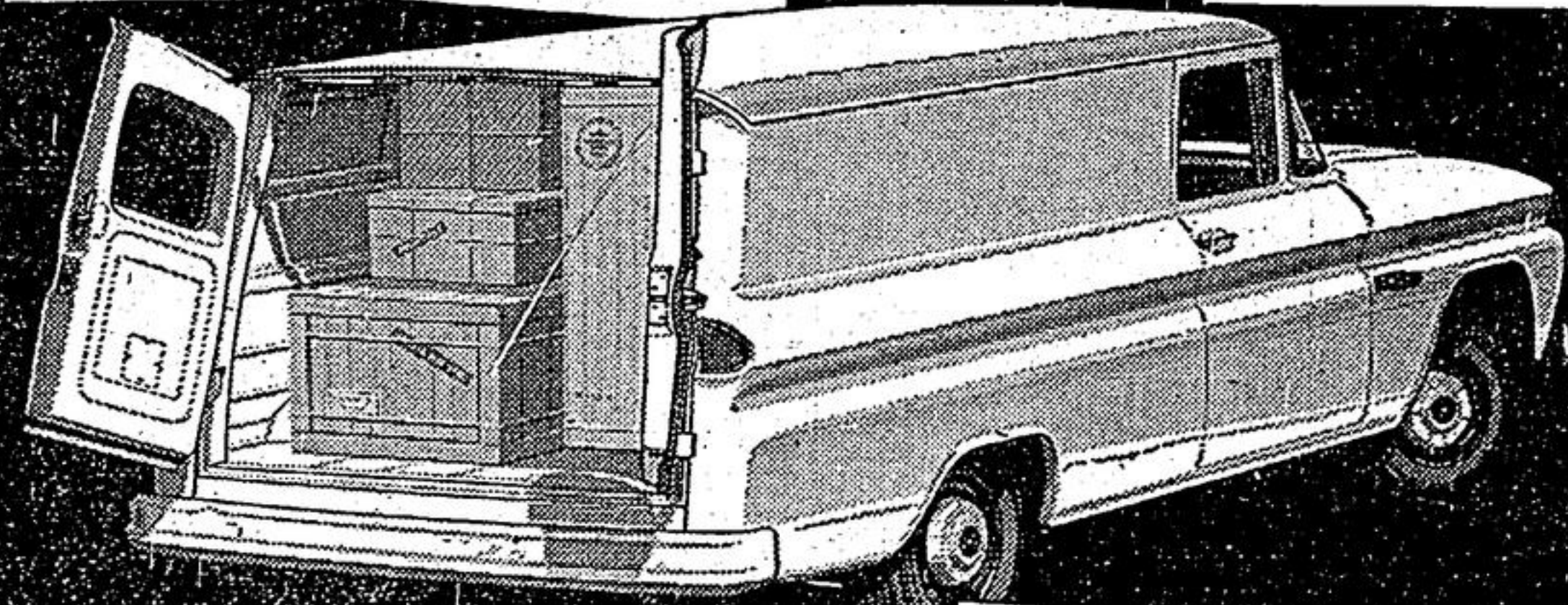


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