

Brown's store remembered

By MARIAN WARNE

Mary (Harper) Stiver, Evelyn (Hurrell) Rainey and I worked for several years together. Art Brown was started in the business world by his mother when she supplied him with a large glass jar of penny candy and from the profit he and his brother John refilled the jar and sold some more.

John told me once about the boys telling him if he didn't give them some candy they would beat him up.

Mr. Brown branched out over the years after his mother's death into groceries, dry goods, fruit, work clothes, boots and shoes, rubber boots, school books, etc.

He also had a chick hatchery (started in the store) and later moved to his property on Hwy 7 just west of the bypass.

This area was known as the Fox Farm where he raised silver fox, mink, and where he had bee hives. Fred Puckering was in charge of the farm and also did the heavy lifting of 100-lb bags of sugar etc. and canned goods.

I noticed 'tripe' for sale in a store and in tins at a high price, but to us at Brown's tripe was smelly meat in a wooden box used for fox and mink food.

Fred, as a boy of nine, told me about watching the men with the pile driver working to put in the foundation for the bridge (the old one) when they ran into quicksand.

During the depression each of us took one day a week without pay and this meant that I would be kept on or I would be let off.

In those days sugar (brown and white) came in 100-pound bags and we put them in five-pound paper bags for the brown and 10-

pound for the white.

We also packaged raisins, currants, prunes etc. in paper bags — there were no packaged goods as we have them today. We also had to sweep and keep oiled the wooden floor, wash windows and put in new displays, keep bins of oranges, etc. filled and the shelves filled.

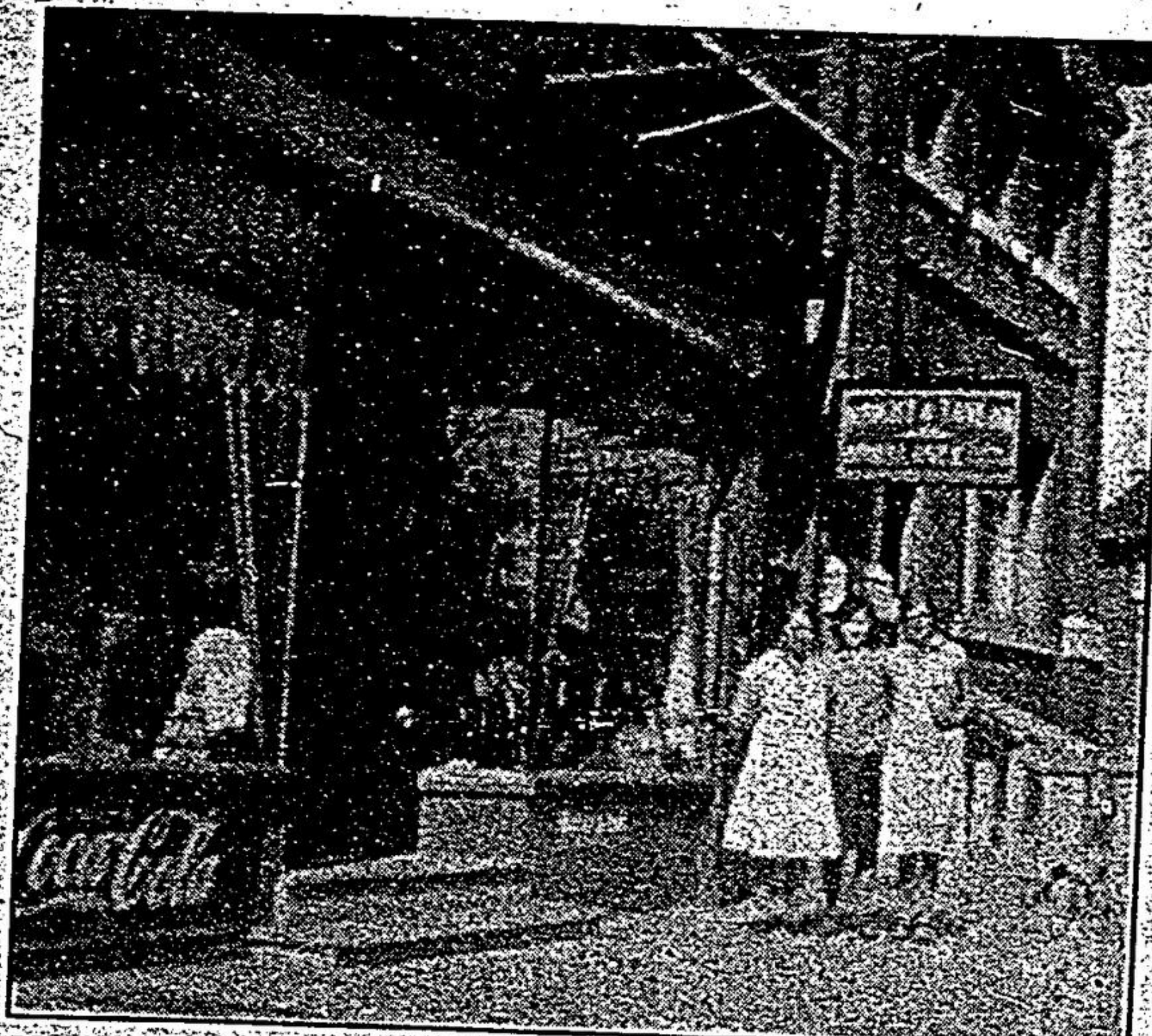
Customers were waited on and sometimes we walked miles as the store was long. The cellar was also stocked with canned goods and cheese and the dry goods were upstairs.

We also sold wallpaper and paint. Each week flyers with specials were mailed out. We also kept the furnace stoked. We worked 12 or more hours a day and six days a week, and took turns working on the mornings of holidays even Christmas day.

Some exciting things did happen. One day, the bank next door was robbed just before closing time. The bandits were picked up in Orangeville in a restaurant with packets of money sticking out of their pockets.

One day we had word that a band of gypsies had been let out at the four corners and to watch out for them. They didn't bother us. I don't remember that they even came into the store. Several times we gave out big meat sandwiches to the chaps who walked the railroad.

The night the Grist Mill (Mr. Harveys) burned I was in the store alone, there were no customers as all the folk were up at the fire. In 1935 I left Brown's and went across the street to work for J. W. Perkin as bookkeeper for the hardware store and the growing gas and oil business.



Marian Warne (right) stands with Mary Harper Stiver (left) and Evelyn Hurrell Rainey outside Brown's store in Unionville. This photo was taken by Abner Summerfeldt and shows the hitching posts which were still in use.

History in the making

The Unionville Historical Society has recently announced that it has undertaken to publish the story of the community.

The selected author is Larry Rainey, a native of Unionville, whose career and credits encompass extensive work in the fields of research, writing and teaching history.

A graduate of York and Queens universities, he has researched and written local histories for the Ontario Government and has taught high school History, Geography, English, Law and Sociology for the past nine years.

The Historical Society anticipates a publishing and release date for this concise historical volume in late 1986. Funding will be derived from sponsorship by various community organizations.

For further information please contact the Society or Conrad Beaubien at (416) 477-3258.

Former chairmen honored

The 1986 Unionville Village Festival Committee would like to extend its appreciation and best wishes to the former Festival Chairmen and their dedicated committee members for their help in preserving Unionville's unique heritage community.

Beginning in 1970, these people worked to save Main Street against the intrusion of four-lane highways and traffic lights.

Their dream has come true for all of us with the completion of the Unionville Bypass and the recent renewal of Main Street. Their vision created Unionville's two day celebration of community spirit; their contribution remains for new

generations of neighbors to cherish.

Most of these Chairmen and their families will be visiting Unionville as guests of Festival June 7 and 8. As you meet them, please say hello and tell them how much you enjoy Main Street and your favorite Festival event.

tival event.

The former chairmen are as follows: Stan Neal (1970-73); Stuart Munro (1973-74); Bob McCullough (1975-76); Peter Anderson (1977-78); Fred Cox (1979-80); Glenn Crosby (1981-82); Paul Heney (1983-84).

Unionville Festival still robust in 17th year

By GEORGE SHEPHERD

1986 Unionville Festival Chairman The song probably says it best "The dream never dies — just the dreamer". Well, the festival dream has never died, but the festival people have come and gone. Some have stayed longer than others, but everyone has made their mark in some manner.

When people talk about present and past festivals they are often referred to by whom even happened to be chairman at the time.

There are seven past chairmen of the festival, all of whom we hope will be at this year's festival to be honored for their contribution and the completion of Main Street.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with five of these gentlemen. To a man they all talked about the good people on their committees who made their years successful.

From a handful of concerned people in the beginning, their vision was far ahead of what most could see and their dreams slowly spread.

I was not aware that the festival almost ended after seven years. The same handful of people involved had become tired and were having difficulty getting up for yet another festival.

That's when some new people came along and rekindled the flame. And the dream had been passed on.

So the tradition goes on today, wonderful new people wanting to be involved in a great community.

I personally have been involved for the past seven festivals and all I can tell you is that the people I have met through the festival are the best! As for the people of this year's festival, I am sure that I am a little biased but I think that they are one

of the finest festival groups ever.

I would like to thank them all for their part in this year's festival. They have worked countless hours to fulfill this huge commitment and I am proud to have worked with each and every one of them.

If you feel the same way I do about these fine people, they will all be there on festival weekend wearing bright yellow T-shirts with "Festival Committee" on the back. Please feel free to thank them yourself — it's the only pay they get or want!

There is one more group of people that must be recognized for their contribution to the festival. They have endured through many meetings, hundreds of phone calls, have heard about all the plans and the ideas and through it all remained supportive.

Of course I am talking about the chairman's wives — what a wonderful group of ladies they are in every way.

My own personal thank-you to my wonderful wife Frances for her continued help and support. You helped make it all happen! I could not have done it without you there.

In closing, I would like to assure all that care to listen that the festival dream will never die, because the people of Unionville, old and new won't let it.

From the editor

By CONRAD BEAUBIEN

Another year has so quickly elapsed, June arrives and in the tradition of the past seven years, The Unionville Standard Times is published to commemorate Festival Day.

What has evolved within our community over the past years has been mirrored in this, Unionville's own annual historical journal.

From its earliest formation as the Berczy settlement, the community's spirit has been nurtured on hope. The promise evolved into a flourishing farming community, and for decades, became the commercial and social centre for a determined, illustrious people building on a new opportunity. The winds of time changed, and, undergoing a transition, the prosperity of Unionville village declined by the mid 1950s.

The age of quick and easy, soon threatened the very core of the village with the demolition of its buildings to facilitate regional road planning. Once again the pioneers met the challenge. Much like their forebearers, these pioneers of the 20th Century were as easily spirited when it came to challenge. The challenge was met, success the reward and today, the annual Village Festival we enjoy, is a legacy to those pioneers of the 20th century and a celebration of those who came before them. The more things change, the more they remain the same.

Unionville still nurtures on that hope of the Berczy settlers and the fires of community spirit continue to burn. The message must remain clear to an ever growing population however that social interaction, common achievement and unrelentless effort is the necessary fuel that will allow these fires to continue to warm the hearth.

The Standard Times

Published as the official publication of the Unionville Village Festival Corporation the 'Times' is now in its seventh annual edition.

The 'Times' presents information relative to our Festival weekend while at the same time giving a wide variety of short stories, anecdotes and pictorial glimpses of 'our town'.

Historical content is contributed by residents, students, book authors giving the 'Times' a cross section of community and historically related material. Published in association with the Economist and Sun, the Unionville Standard Times is able through the efforts of many, including its valued advertising supporters, to contribute financially to the Unionville Village Festival Corporation. This contribution, in turn is distributed to community projects.

We look forward to a continuing and growing editorial input from the community at large as well as the all important support of our advertisers in the 'Times'.

We wish to thank our friends at the Economist and Sun, especially Bruce Annan, Don Bernard, and Pat Pappas for their efforts. Also thanks to Rethann Vernon, Nancy Hoskin, Greg Coates, Francis King and Sjoerd Witteveen.

Special thanks to Tony Murphy for the use of his historical photos. Managing Editor: Conrad Beaubien.

Associate Editor: Jane Beaubien.

Contributors to the Times: Susan Casella, Val Taylor, Tom Greenough, Larry Rainey, Theo Rothe and Marion Warne.

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Generous sponsors

The 1986 Unionville Village Festival Committee extends special thanks to these sponsors who have generously supported Festival events this year: Tridel, Bramalea, Monarch, Chesebrough-Pond's, Magna International, Ford Electronics, Allstate, Heritage Pools, Black's Cameras, Unionville-Markham Auto Dealers, Fred Schaeffer & Associates, Miller Paving, Bell Canada, Coca-Cola, Sunkist Fruit Market, Knob Hill Farms.