



HARLEM, 1979: Chant's Variety Store, Silas Smith's log home of the early eighteen hundreds, Harlem United Church, the new home of Mr. & Mrs. Warren Cripps, Mr. Wilbert Chant, and the old blacksmith's shop.

Harlem Today

The school is closed, the church is closed, no cheese factory, no mills nor blacksmith shops, but Harlem still has one of the best general stores in the area, stocking everything from tools to most any kind of grocery or produce, the store of W.S. Chant's. This store was first kept by Miller Stevens. In 1905 Mr. John W. Chant purchased the store from Joe Chapman. Wilbert had been associated with his father in the store's business since he was a boy and, in 1938, he and his wife Mabel took over the actual management. Today Clara Townsend assists in the store part-time and Mrs. Chant has turned her attention to needlecrafts.

The Orange Hall across from the church has become the Wykes Boat Works and Upholstery Shop. Frank Wykes and his wife Nancy have been residents of Harlem for twenty-nine years and in the boat-building business twenty-four years. During this time Frank has turned out nearly sixteen hundred guide boats, a kayak and several cruisers. At present he is working on a twenty-six foot cruiser which he hopes to launch in the spring. He also does much repair work on boats.

Mrs. Wykes operates an upholstery shop, refinishing and upholstering furniture. As the need arises she is assisted part-time by Mrs. Warren Cripps and Mrs. Gerald Wykes.

Both Frank and his wife are fine craftsmen doing superb work.

The Harlem area has a doctor, Dr. John Kelk, in residence, but his office is the Portland Medical Centre.

Across from the store Mrs. Asa Pattemore lives in a modern home built about 1964.

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Cripps have erected a lovely home overlooking the valley on the site of John Gainford's early home.

Farther west along the Harlem Road we come to the lovely new home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pollock.

Other new homes of the area are those of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Hunt and Mrs. Lena Gallagher.

During the past few years there has been an influx of teachers of Rideau District High School taking over some of the older homes of the area. We are pleased to have them as neighbours.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hutcheson bought the early Chipman home from Frank Posovad.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Marshall purchased the early Hales Eyre farm from Edwin Chant.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pattinson bought the George Johnston home from Burt Chant.

The stone house on the Jim Green farm later the Lloyd Campbell property, belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth Sharp.

Today Harlem is a quiet little hamlet on the paved road linking County Road 8 with Highway 15 at Portland. Take a drive on the Harlem Road, especially in the fall when the maples are in their autumn colours. You will enjoy the beauty.

Harlem Post Office

During the 1870's mail was carried into Harlem from Toledo on foot three times a week by "Uncle Sam Chant". The first post office was kept by Will Gorman where Frank Wykes lives. Later it was moved to the store and run by Joe Chapman. In 1905 John W. Chant bought the general store and along with the store he inherited the postmaster's job. W. S. Chant took over the management of the store and post office in 1938, holding the postmaster's job until the office closed in May, 1970.

During those years the mail came in from the Phillipsville office drawn by the different couriers - Virgil Phillips, Sam Carr, George Laming, Thomas Moulton, Ward and Lenna Lawson.

Today the mail is delivered from the Elgin office by Mr. Charles Lake. Harlem is R. R. #2, Elgin, KOG 1EO.

Bargain Junction

Drop in. Browse around. We've got what you need.