

The witnesses for the plaintiff were Miss Edna Parker and Miss Myrtle Thompson. Those for the defendant, Miss Delia Jennings and Edward O'Brien, Fred Dunn made an excellent court crier. The Jurors were Messers D.S. Thompson, G. Campbell, C. Joiner, P. Haight, J. Walker Jr., Welter and C. Pincombe. Their verdict a most amusing one was given in favor of the plaintiff.
Dirty Good Natured Wife is Preferable.

To the clean, cranky variety, according to the outcome of a Joint Debate.

Thursday Evening the Civic Club of the First Methodist Church joined with the River Road Literary Society in a program at the River Road School house.

The Civic Club to the number of 25 went out in carriages. The program was as follows. Wellington Francis took the chair and introduced the president of the Civic Club, H.C. Borbridge in a few well chosen remarks of greeting who then introduced the following. Solo "He was a Prince" very pleasingly rendered by Miss Jean Bailey, Chorus by River Road Literary Glee Club greeted by cheers. Debate. "Resolved that a clean cranky wife is preferable to a dirty good natured wife." Ten minute speeches were delivered for the affirmative by Frank Thompson, Fred Dunn, and Sam Fulton, the negative being upheld by N.H. Shitmore, C.R. Pincombe and F.A. McCully. The judges were H.S. Whyte, Chairman Frank Joiner and J.A. Esson who after a lengthy consultation awarded the negative the decision by a very close margin and complimented the affirmative upon their able defence of a clean cranky wife.

Then followed a chorus by the R.R. Literary Society Glee Club. A reading by Miss Jennings, "a visit to the R.R. Literary Society ten years hence." which provoked great merriment and showed good literary ability on the part of the writer. A solo "Italian Love" by Mrs. J.A. Esson was beautifully executed, calling for an encore and she responded with "Within a Mile of Edinburgh Town."

"The Maple Leaf" was lustily sung by all present after which a dainty lunch was served in abundance. Miss Parker of Southwold and Miss Mabel Demare of St. Thomas acted as accompanists for the musical numbers. The school house was packed to standing room.

Debate on Reciprocity Held by River Road Literary Society

The third meeting this year of the River Road Literary Society was held Friday evening, and was even better than the previous ones. Samuel Fulton the Vice-President occupied the chair and proved to be a very capable chairman.

The main feature of the program was the debate "Resolved that the proposed reciprocity agreement between Canada and the United States will be to the advantage of all Canadians. Which proved to be quite interesting and instructive. The affirmative side was taken by Samuel Fulton and Fred Dunn and the negative by Montey Ward and Frank Thompson (the latter spoke against his convictions)

The other part of the program consisted of two songs by the Glee Club, the reading of the Chronicle by Mrs. Geo. Campbell, a solo by Geo. Burrows and a reading by Mrs. W.A. Metler of St. Thomas.

The next regular meeting will be on Friday Mar. 10 when the evening will be devoted to the life and works of the poet Moore.

On Thursday evening Mar. 2 the Civic Club of the First Methodist Church St. Thomas have kindly promised to come and assist in the program and also supply three debaters for their side in a comic debate.

River Road Literary Society -- Myrtle Metler

One meeting that I remember, Alice Dunn and I took the alphabet and wrote something about each member - B was for Bobby Dennis he lived in the old School House on the Hugh Fulton farm, and he built a small building and put it on wheels and would wheel it up and down the road and he lived in it sometimes. It was only big enough for one person, so we wrote a rhyme about that . Can't remember the other letters but it must have been written for the Chronicle, which must have been our Literary paper.

River Road Acquaintance Club

On October 2, 1936 a meeting was held in the school by the young people of the community to organize a club. The purpose of which to promote the Social Life of the Section.

The meetings were held every second Friday at 8.30 p.m. in the school. Names of the persons who headed up the 1st. executive were as follows; President Frank McGaw, Vice President Curtis Campbell, Secretary Mildred Lindsay and Treasurer Geanalta Darrach. There was representation from all the families in the area such as the Lindsay's, Douglas, Johnsons, O'Briens, Campbell, Claus, McPherson, McGaw, Metler, Fulton, Coleman, McKinley, Darrach, Greer, Shingler, Yourk and Mycroft. There were forty names on the roll which included others from outside the area such as, Velma Lanning, Pearl Robinson (the teacher) Glenn Moffatt, Gertrude Graham, E. Tyckman, Mervin Steinhoff, Dorothy Wilkinson, Harold Clark, Bill Kerwin, Aleta McGugan and C. Dunn.

During the four years that the group remained active many successful parties, dances, weiner roasts and picnics were enjoyed by the members and friends. The orchestras who supplied the music for the various functions were the Hindley's from Union, Angus Swedland, Messers Gardner and Pop Palmer, Charlton's Husking Bee Orchestra and Messrs. Turvey and Clibborn.

On May 13, 1937 a presentation of coloured portraits of King George the fifth and Queen Elizabeth was made to the school by the club and the public School Literary Society. A play by the Union Young People called "Mary's Castles in the Air" was presented to the enjoyment of the community.

In November 1940 the meetings were discontinued as many of the members were answering the call to duty. Others were marrying and moving away from the area. There were funds to be disposed of so it was decided that with the help of the Women's Institute we would honour the boys and families who had returned from overseas. A community weiner roast was held on the lawn at the school on the evening of July 26, 1945 with a musical program chaired by Mr. D.B. McPherson which included Mrs. S.A. Fulton, Marianne Coleman, Mrs. G. Beattie, Mr. Bentley and the Palmer girls. Mr and Mrs. Palmer supplied the music for the dance that followed.

This marked an era in the lives of the young people of River Road. Those were the days that we recall when coffee was 25¢ per pound, sugar 29¢ for 5 pounds and weiners at 30¢ a pound. It is all but a memory, let us hope it served it's purpose.

Myrtle (Lindsay) Robilliard

Farming 1867 - 1967

In this centennial year 1967 many are concerned with the high cost of living and it is currently one of the chief topics of conversation. Food prices especially seem to be the target for much criticism and many committees have been set up to study the situation.

Many city folk are inclined to blame the farmer. He in turn is more than dissatisfied with the returns he gets for his investment and long hours of labour. The rural population has been depleted many farmers seeking jobs in urban centres. Often the younger men have left for the city leaving older men to carry on as long as they are able. But often these farms are worked by operators with large machinery and it is increasingly becoming a fact that many small farms as such are disappearing as it seems economically impossible to work them.

Such a change from when our grandparents were engaged in farming in the 1800's. Farms were generally surveyed to contain one hundred acres. This the farmer with the help of his family, cleared and tilled, oxen or horses supplying the power for his small machinery. His expenses including taxes and operating costs were small, and in most instances the farm was in a reasonable time free from debt. The farmers expenses are steadily rising while his income, the price he receives for his produce has not risen accordingly. Subsidies from the government for commodities have been given but they do not seem to supply the answer. In this Centennial year farmers have voiced their dissatisfaction by tractor demonstrations on highways, meeting on Parliament Hill to voice their dissatisfaction to the Government and hoping to find a solution to their problems.

The consumer too is concerned with the higher prices he pays for goods as compared to what the farmer receive. There are many factors adding to the cost from farmer to consumer. Now a Housewife can with very little effort produce a meal complete with salad, meat canned or frozen vegetables, dessert in a short time. However she must realize that many factors have contributed to the higher cost of this food. In earlier days farm meals were in most cases almost entirely made up of home grown foods, but now in town or city or even in the farm some or most is imported, processed, fancy packaged, graded, etc. all of which is added to what the producer receives for his product and paid for by the consumer.

This wide range in grading and packaging etc. makes it difficult to compare prices of present times to those of many years past. An Evening Times of 1903 quotes a few farm prices of commodities sold at the farm, wheat 72¢ per bu. now about \$2.00, butter 23¢ now about 60¢ at stores, maple syrup 25¢ per qt. now \$1.25, Cattle \$4 to \$5 per cwt. now \$20, eggs 11¢ now 30¢, hogs 12½¢ a lb. now 30¢ a lb., potatoes 90¢ a bag now \$1.50, The "now" prices are approximate. However in buying from stores at the present we find prices greatly increased over those at the turn of the century and before. Thread then 5¢ is now 35¢ per spool, flannelette 8¢ a yd. now 35¢, wool socks 25¢ now \$1.00, boy's suits \$4 to \$5 now \$20 etc.

Many more items other than food have contributed to the high cost of living in 1967. Automobiles, electrical appliances, drugs, home furnishings, clothing, sports equipment, taxes, education, etc. have gradually increased in price and 1967 sees a constant struggle for the average wage earner to compete with increased costs. There have been in recent years many strikes in Canada to try to remedy the situation but in our centennial year the matter is not solved, strikes go on, prices increase to help pay for increased wages and the cycle is repeated.

Perhaps the farmer with increased costs and the same old prices for his produce is no worse off than the city man in the low income bracket. It is indeed a problem. We shall have to wait for the solution if it ever does come. Specialized farming increased production even better book keeping records have been offered as suggestions for improvement in the farmer's financial state. Will these settle the farmers 1967 disparity between income, expenses in the future.

These include cost of transportation, grading, processing, packing, foreign exchange on imported products, refrigeration, storage etc.

One hundred years ago farmers took much of their produce to the markets in the nearby town or city. Market day saw sleigh or wagon boxes filled with stove wood, hay, beef or pork or vegetables on the market square. Perhaps others, in cutters or buggies brought eggs, butter, maple syrup etc. These markets were usually in a central place in the town or city, and many came there to get their weekly supply.

Often farmers exchanged goods at local stores, eggs, butter, dried apples etc, were often taken to the stores and exchanged for goods not grown or manufactured locally. These included thread, dress goods, shoes, tea, sugar, coffee etc.

Most products were sold in larger quantities and were unpackaged and ungraded. The storekeeper dipped into a large container, probably a barrel, and weighed out such things as sugar, oatmeal, into brown paper sacks and then weighed them. Syrup, honey, molasses, coal oil etc was put into some sort of container, meat, cheese were cut at the desired size for the customer, soap was in bars but the choice was limited. There were few canned goods, no baby foods, cat and dog food. A few oranges and bananas and few out of season fruits and vegetables. Ready made clothing was uncommon, most of the sewing being done in homes or at the dressmakers.

But that is all changed to-day. Many live in apartments with little storage space, and bulk purchases are out of the question. The stores show their commodities in various attractive ways. Scarcely anything is sold in bulk, but is displayed on shelves in the many hundreds of different packages to which we have become accustomed. The fruit and vegetable sections with many imported fruits and vegetables as well as the meat section are arranged very attractively.

Mail Routes Out of St. Thomas

Most of the information that I received concerning mail routes out of St. Thomas was obtained from Mr. Frank Auckland who drove the first one. No. 7.

They were all started around 1913.

No.1. was the route to Fingal. A stage coach carried the mail and a Mr. Cameron drove it.

No.2. was the route south east of St. Thomas and began Jan. 1 1913, with Mr. Cook delivering the mail.

No 3. was the route east of St. Thomas.

No.4. was the route to Union, Sparta, also by stage-coach.

No 5 was started in 1913. This route came out over the horseshoe hill, served the ~~three~~ River Roads, went over Fulton

Bridge down the 4th. concession of Yarmouth to the Sparta road back north one mile up the 5th. concession, up the Gravel Road to St. Thomas. Warren Smith an elderly man from Talbotville had the route for about two months and then it was taken over by Ed. Stover. Then his son Leland and wife drove it. Leland's wife and a Mrs. Thompson drove it. Mrs. Thompson was the wife of a 91st. soldier so that was in the time of the first World War.

Later a Mr. Young took over followed by Mr. Baxter, and then Mr. Binns. Mr. K. Burton has had the route for several years beginning in 1941. He worked in the Post Office in St. Thomas part time during World War 2, when help was scarce. Mr. Binns drove for him for 3 seasons.

No.6. North east of the city began in fall of 1912.

No.7. Was the route to Talbotville, Paynes Mills etc. Mr. Auckland received \$650 for taking the route at first. In 1916 he tendered for it and asked \$1,000 but didn't get it so he began work on the M.C.R.

During a very cold day in a blizzard in the winter of 1930 Mr. Baxter was taken into the S.A. Fulton home. He was very cold as he was driving a horse and cutter. After a hot cup of tea and time spent in warming up he went on his way.

On another occasion Mr. Baxter while driving a car became stuck in the mud between Metler's and Francis' gate. Since the front of the car was buried in the mud it was necessary for Mr. Metler, with his team of horses to pull him out backwards. As he was endeavouring to do this the rear end of the car ran up on the horses' heels and they promptly kicked his tail light, breaking it.

Such were the trials of those who drove our early mail routes. They endeavoured to get through muddy roads, spring and fall, and through snowbanks and blizzards in winter. There was little protection in buggies and cutters from the elements. In these days of better gravelled roads and snow removal and cars for transportation the hardships of those former times are much lessened.

By -- Mrs. W.A. Metler

From the Times Journal 1952

I remember vividly the terrible train disaster that occurred on the L. & P. S. Railway over 65 years ago.

The train was carrying picnickers from the Baptist Church in London and had picked up some in St. Thomas.

I was Mary Robinson at that time and with another little girl was in the charge of Miss Cassie Jeffrey, daughter of O. A. Jeffrey of Molson's Bank, London. We left Port Stanley at seven O'Clock in the evening and were just passing through the centre of St. Thomas when the engine of the train collided with two tank cars filled with oil in a Michigan Central train. I hesitate to revive the awful memory of this my most terrifying experience.

Some died and others were severely burned or injured. We arrived in London at midnight.

Mrs. Mary McGaw

Col. Talbot Centennial 1903

The Col. Talbot Centennial commemorating his arrival at Port Talbot one hundred years before was held in St. Thomas 1903 with Henry Roe well known St. Thomas man as general convenor.

Program for 1903 Centennial

1903 Talbot Settlement 1903

May 21 -25 1903

May 21 Historical Day
May 22 Educational Day. Opening of Collegiate
May 23 Pioneer and Old Boy's Day
Pioneer Parade. Opening of Pinafore Park and erecting Cairn.
May 24 Soldiers at Church
May 25 Military Day.

Celebrate the Centennial, You won't be here for the next.

I remember attending one day of the celebration at Pinafore Park. My only recollection of that event was a ride on a street car, also seeing the small trees planted in Pinafore park. These are now beautiful shade trees.

Clara Fulton

Some Events in River Road Community

- May 23/46 Barn raised on farm of Morley Claus to replace one burned previous Dec.
- Apr. 11/50 Mrs. and Mr. D. B. McPherson honored on 50th. wedding anniversary at home of their son Finley Wallacetown
- May 23/51 30th. Anniversary tea R.R.W.I. at school. Mrs. W. Metler, Mrs. D.B. McPherson convenors.
- May 55 J. McPherson home ready for occupancy
- Feb. 58. A. Douglas home by road burned.
- Nov. 58 R.R. School competed at Music Festival
- July 27/62 D.B. McPherson home burned.
- July 28/63 Bell Telephone takes over Southwold Telephone
- Feb. 26/64 Big snowstorm ties up Elgin Co.
- May 64 Elgin Manor Opened
- Oct 5/64 Elgin Manor officially opened
- Oct 22/64 R.R. School sold to Mrs. Clara Fulton
- Dec. 12/64 Southwold School Area No 1, officially opened with teachers Mrs. R. Medlyn, Mrs. Mac Hunter, Mr. Gordon Sims, Mrs. R. Bartlett, Mrs. M. Meek, Mr Gregory board member
- Jan 18/65 Beattie home by road burned.
- Nov 65 Great power failure in parts of Canada and U. S.A.
- Nov. 65 The Diefenbaker party visited Elgin Manor and the school children of Southwold school present.
- June, July 67 Bus trips to Expo.
- Aug. 67 Mellor cemetery renovated
- Dec. 67. Ford Plant opened.
- Jan. 13/68 Severe ice storm followed in Feb. by great Flooding in Wallaceburg, Chatham Area.
- 1970 New bridge over Kettle Creek at foot of Kain's hill was built
- 1970 Fulton hill improved and new culvert and road put in on opposit hill.
- 1970 New highway #45 built over Kettle Creek through lots 6 and 7 East River Road and lots 6 and 7 West River Road in the River Road community.
- 1969 The former Chaplow home on lot 9 E.R.R. was burned.
- 1970 Earth taken from Keith Fulton farm for the foundation of road #45.
- 1983 The Bush road from railroad to end of Middle River Road was raised up and new culverts put in. It was also re-surfaced.

(7)

Members of River Road W.I.

Charter members:

Mrs. Geo Campbell
Mrs. J. A. Campbell
Mrs. W. A. Metler
Mrs R. Lindsay
Mrs. W. Coleman
Mrs. D. B. McPherson
Mrs T. McGaw
Mrs. J. Beattie
Miss M. Joiner
Mrs S. Page
Miss Elsie McIntyre
Miss Emma McIntyre
Mrs. J. Barrie
Mrs. F. Chaplow
Miss Jean Campbell

Life members:

Mrs. Geo. Campbell	Mrs. S.A. Fulton
Mrs. Fred Claus	Mrs. N. D. Campbell
Mrs. W. A. Metler	

Other members:

Mrs. S. A. Fulton
Mrs. Fred Claus
Miss Elva Chaplow
Miss Bessie Grass (Mrs. N.D. Campbell)
Miss Edith McGaw (Mrs. Geo. Mycroft)
Miss Edna McGaw (Mrs. C Porter)
Miss Jean McPherson (Mrs. Lacey)
Miss Agnes McPherson (Mrs. R. Stacey)
Mrs. Elliott Douglas
Mrs. Jean O'Brien
Mrs. Frank Joiner
Mrs. E. Malotte
Miss Alma McGaw
Mrs. B. Patrick
Miss Jean Metler (Mrs. J. McPherson)
Mrs. D. Lindsay
Miss Mildred Lindsay
Miss Addelene Lindsay
Miss Pearl Robinson
Mrs. J. Spurr
Miss Lena Metler (Mrs. N. Cook)
Miss Catherine McPherson (Mrs. F. Lindsay)
Mrs. Dewar Jackson
Miss Annie McGaw
Mrs. Curtis Campbell
Miss Marianne Coleman
Miss A. McGugan
Miss Jean Campbell (Mrs. S. Brown)
Mrs. K. W. Campbell
Mrs. C. Way
Mrs. Finlay McPherson
Miss Estelle Fulton
Mrs. W. Cummings
Miss Ella Axford

Members of River Road W.I.

Mrs. W.D. Metler
Mrs. W. Carter
Mrs. Fatcher Begg
Mrs. R. Ross
Miss Lillian Ross
Mrs. Fred Lindsay Sr.
Mrs J. Kelly
Miss Doris Campbell
Mrs. Adair Douglas
Mrs. Keith Fulton
Mrs. J. Ewart
Mrs. A. McIntyre
Mrs. J. Powers
Mrs. Hunter
Mrs. C. Reid
Mrs. R. Allison
Mrs. A. Allison
Mrs. H. Tucker
Mrs. R. Tucker
Mrs. Fred Austin
Mrs. Mae Dickie
Mrs. T. L. Black
Mrs. C. McCaig
Mrs Tursch
Mrs. D. Siple
Mrs. VanTright
Mrs. D. Binks
Mrs. Eli Reck
Mrs. Vickery
Mrs Clarence Fulton
Miss Dorothy Lindsay
Mrs. J. Lindsay (C. Haley)
Mrs. Leslie Jones
Mrs. H. Reiger
Mrs. G. Beattie
Mrs. D. Bryden
Mrs. J. Coombs ^{SR}
Mrs. G. Vowels
Mrs. E. Richardson
Mrs. J. Begg
Mrs. J. Coombs Jr.
Mrs. C. Duynisveld
Mrs. Mae Lanning
Mrs. T. Cook
Mrs. L. Bradt
Mrs. Floyd Claus
Mrs. J. Coombs Jr.
Mrs. G. Richardson
Mrs. P. Mayrand
Mrs. D. deYoung
Mrs. Colin Thacker
Mrs. Marvin Caughell
Mrs. Mike Caughell
Mrs. Bert Veenstra
Mrs. John Palmer
Mrs. E. Lehr
Mrs. Enid Gilchrist

Mrs. A. Schaafsma
Mrs. Dorothy Walker
Mrs. Merv. Bridge



Mrs. G. Campbell
 Pres. 21-22 Sec. 25-26
 34-35
 35-36



Mrs. J. Campbell
 Pres. 23-24 Sec. 24-25
 30-31



Mrs. S.A. Fulton
 Pres. 24-25 Sec. 43-44
 39-40
 40-41



Mrs. D.B. McPherson
 Pres. 24-25 Sec. 27-28



Mrs. Fred Clause
Pres. 30-31



Mrs. J. O'Brien
Pres. 31-32



Mrs. R. Stacey
Pres. 32-33



Mrs. T. McGaw
Pres. 36-37
37-38



Mrs. W.A. Metler
Pres. 25-26 Sec. 21-22
46-47 22-23
35-36
56-57
57-58
58-59



Mrs. W. Coleman
Pres. 26-27 Sec. 28-29
33-34 29-30
43-44 30-31
44-45



Miss Edith McGaw
Pres. 27-28



Mrs. N.D. Campbell
Pres. 28-29 Sec. 32-33
29-30 33-34
Treas. 63-64 39-40
64-65 40-41
65-66 41-42
66-67 42-43



Mrs. C. Campbell
 Pres. 45-46 Sec. 51-52
 52-53
 53-54
 54-55
 55-56



Mrs. J.H. McPherson
 Pres. 47-48 Sec. 44-45
 45-46



Mrs. F. Lindsay Jr.
 Pres. 48-49 Sec. 36-37
 61-62 37-38
 62-63 38-39
 64-65



Mrs. W. D. Metler
 Pres. 49-50