

AUG • 60



FARMER'S CLUB

• MAY • 61



BORDENS.

• MAY • 61



C. P. R.

"Sexsmiths' Drugs"

Owned and operated by Frank Sexsmith for over forty years, was sold at his death in 1960 to Roy Barker. Frank was born in Glencoe in 1890- educated in Glencoe, Guelph and College of Pharmacy in Toronto. He came to Belmont in the spring of 1919 at the end of World War I. He was an officer overseas for four years. He established the drugstore in March, 1919, and operated it successfully until 1960, the year of his death. He was married in 1921 to Kathleen Secord and they worked together in the business. Frank was a naturalist of some ability, especially enjoying the birds of which there was an abundance in the early years due to lovely woods and open spaces.

The drug store is now owned and operated by Roy Barker, Pharmacist and Druggist.

Dr. Peter Marchuk has established an up-to-date office in the lower part adjoining the drug store, and a modern apartment is completed above the drug store.

The building where the drug store is situated was formerly part of a large rooming house across the street called the "Creamery House". Half of it was moved in 1913 and Alex Omond was druggist until O. F. Sexsmith purchased the building.

The rest of the rooming house is the present Port Office and house of Harold Archer.



FRANK SEXSMITH.



DRUG STORE

THE STRACHAN FAMILY

Owners and printers of the "Belmont Times"

Thomas Strachan, a cousin of Rt. Reverend John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto and Upper Canada of the Anglican Church, born Perthshire Scotland, and married Catherine Hamilton and Migrated to Canada.

Alexander Strachan, born county of Lannark, Ontario, December 18, 1824, died in Belmont, Ontario on December 15, 1880, and was buried in Stewart Cemetery, Belmont, Ontario. Priscilla Watson, his wife, was born in Dungannon, Ireland, on January 9, 1831. She was a sister of Robert Watson, Belmont, who came to Canada when three months old, taking six weeks sailing. She was married on April 20, 1860 in Mornington Township, and died April 11, 1909 in Belmont. She also was buried in Stewart Cemetery along with John's son, Blake.

Alexander (Sandy) Strachan, his wife Priscilla, and their four sons, John, Stewart, Albert, and Thomas (the eldest) moved from the Queen's Bush near Dorking and Listowel to a farm just west of Belmont about one mile west of the Borden's Milk Plant, on the south side of the V, and later moved to the village of Belmont buying the Dr. Spencer home on West Street.

Following Alexander's death a short time later, December 15, 1880, Mrs. Strachan built the white brick cottage next door (where Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Price reside) and lived there along with her son, Stewart and family, until her death in 1909.

John married Jennie Dobson of Millbank in 1889, and a year later, Thomas married a sister-in-law, Hannah Dobson. Thomas was, prior to his marriage, with the Great Western Railway; and about 1887 he bought the Printing Office from . Later it became the Belmont Times, and still later, the Belmont Enterprise, Job Printing and Notary Public, and together he and Stewart carried on successfully until soon after Thomas died in 1930. Mrs. T. W. Strachan and Marjorie (Stewart's daughter) helped with type setting. Stewart died in the McCormick Home, London in 1944.

In 1900, John sold his blacksmith and carriage-making business to his partner, Elgin Proconier and moved to Aylmer, Ontario, where he had a successful bakery business. Later he became "processor" for many years. Following an accident, he resigned and later he was "field man" for the Aylmer Cannery. In 1932, he returned to Belmont opening a Red & White Grocery. He retired about 1940 and died on August 26, 1956, following a lengthy illness.

All three brothers are buried in the Aylmer Cemetery -- Albert, the youngest son lived in Toronto for many years and was buried there about 1932.

Bancroft's Blacksmith Shop

Claude Bancroft and his wife, Amy, moved from Mapleton where he had a blacksmith shop. In , he built the cement blacksmith shop at the foot of the hill in Belmont, north east of the bridge on highway #74.

Wallace Jackson bought it after Claude Bancroft's death and conducted a blacksmith and repair shop.

He built an apartment above the shop in which they lived until April, 1964, when the apartment was sold and moved to Belmont south.

The shop was torn down to make way for a new wider bridge on Highway #74.

Hamlyn's Mill

This mill was located in the area where the Belmont Water Works is now located.

The tall smoke stack was the last remaining evidence to be destroyed when the new Water Works was built in 1957.

The mill was built and owned by John Boyd and Sons, and consisted of a grist, cedar, and planing mill. Frank Hamlyn bought it in 1905 and carried on an extensive grist and lumber mill until the time of his retirement, when it was closed and later torn down.

Belmont Cheese Factory

This was located at the foot of Belmont hill on the south west side of the bridge. It was built by Dr. Cline and Mr. Tooley, later sold to Mr. Davidson, then to Mr. Evans, who sold it to Mr. Wm. Fitzpatrick, who conducted it until he sold it to Canadian Milk Products, who tore down the building.

A bowling green was later situated near where the old cheese factory was torn down. This has been abandoned, and the building sold since the death of its benefactor, Dr. A. W. Beattie.

Elgin-Middlesex Farmers Ltd.

One of the owners was Mr. Allison who lived in the large white brick house, now owned by the I.O.O.F. Lodge.

He built this home and ran a bank in a small building to the west of their home which has since been torn down. He also built and owned the mill.

John McNichol bought the property, mill and home from Mr. Allison. This was later sold to W. A. Barons, who sold it to Erdley Finch and son in 1919.

In 1929, the mill was completely destroyed by fire and rebuilt by Mr. Finch and son. Many improvements, e.g. a new office and grain elevators have been added.