

OIL FIELDS

1920, July 29 There are two oil wells being put down on the 4th concession, one being at Donald McCallum's, the other at D.J. Campbell's.

1924 On the oil fields at Ed. Hatton's a second well was completed which was "a nice stream".

1924, September 4 One car of oil has been shipped from the tree wells at Hatton's. The McPherson farm well was making a good showing.

At Archie Whitelock's, a well was drilled 234 feet, but only a pocket of oil was found.

1964 A rotary drilling rig from Calgary moved into the area. The first well was drilled on the farm of Daniel McLellan, Lot 16, Concession 1, with no oil being found, then another well was drilled on the farm of Hugh McCallum, Lot 17, Concession 1. Although the well was capped, it was not brought into production. The erection of this high rig caused much interest with many travelling to see it in operation



The rotary drilling rig from Calgary working on the farm of Hugh McCallum in 1964.



Looking toward the home of C. Ray Jewell from the site on Hugh McCallum's.



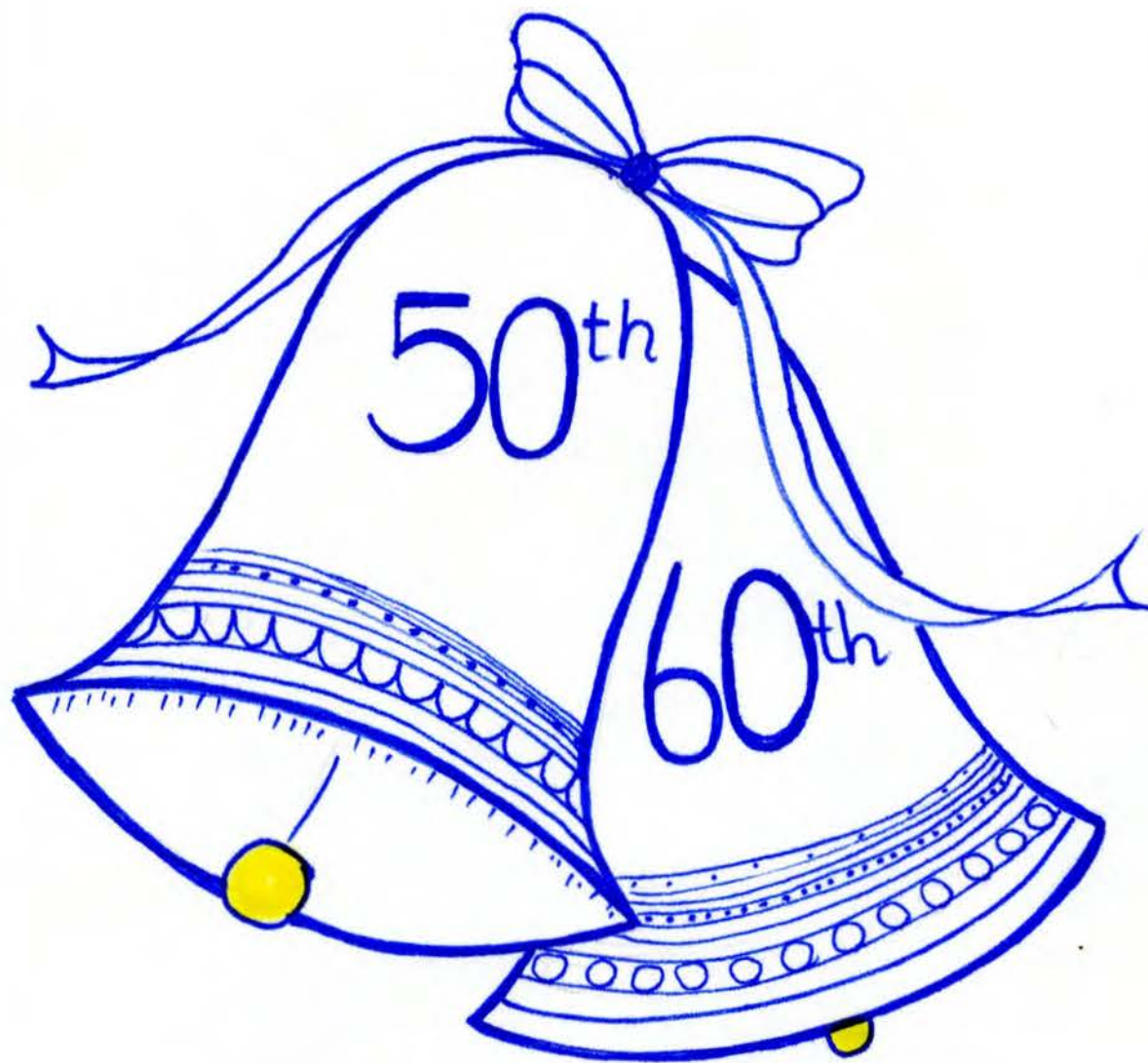
A close-up view of the rig.

1965 Oil was found on the farm of Philip Campbell on Concession 2, which was the forerunner of several more wells which comprise the Willey's oil field. Imperial Oil Company was the first owner, while in 1984 the owner is Sasko Oil, Calgary.



This is the Cowal Oil Battery where the oil from all the wells is collected, then taken to Sarnia by truck to be refined. The Battery is located on the farm of Robert Murray. (June 1984)





Wedding  
Anniversaries





60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.



John W. "Jock" and Agnes McCallum

October 28, 1948 (the following item was taken from the Dutton Advance).

At a family gathering at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Douglas Campbell, Cowal, on Monday, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. McCallum, well-known Dunwich couple, quietly observed the 60th anniversary of their wedding day. During the afternoon many friends and neighbours called to offer felicitations and cards. Telegrams were received from Acting Prime Minister C.D. Howe and C.D. Coyle, M.P. for Elgin.

They were married at Cowal in the manse on October 25, 1888 by Rev. Mr. Urquhart. Mrs. McCallum was the former Agnes Crawford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Crawford, Largie. They farmed for many years at Cowal. Upon retiring they came to Dutton for 18 years until Mrs. McCallum's health failed and they returned to Cowal. Mrs. McCallum resides with her daughter, Mrs. Douglas Campbell, while Mr. McCallum still does odd jobs on the farm of his son Archie T. McCallum. They have one daughter, Mrs. Douglas Campbell and two sons Archie Tom and Duncan. There are six grandchildren, James Ian McCallum, Janet McCallum, Katherine, Archie, John. and Anne Campbell.

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Marry in May  
And rue the day,  
Marry in June  
All life will be in tune.

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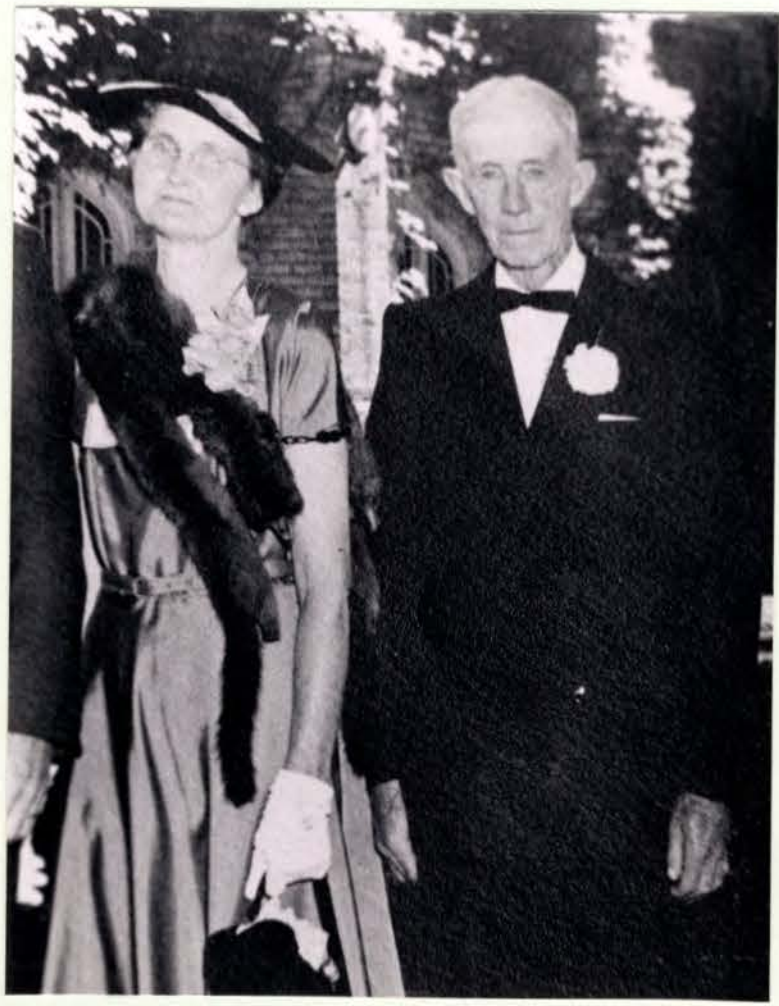


ARCHIE M & MARY HELEN CAMPBELL



Archie M. and Mary Campbell

Archie M. Campbell married Mary Helen McPhail on February 7, 1912, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McPhail, with Rev. D. McKay officiating. They were unattended and at the reception entertained 60 guests. They farmed all their lives on Lot 24, Concession 3. They had a family of three - Gordon, Clarence and Kathyleen. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Tea at their home on February 10, 1962. Mary died in 1964 and Archie M. in 1972.



Douglas and Alda (McCallum) Campbell.

Douglas Campbell married Alda McCallum on June 16, 1920 at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. McCallum. Witnesses were Duncan McCallum and Winnie Campbell with Rev. Malcolm officiating. Music was provided by Florence McMillan. Their family is Katherine, Archie T., John, and Anne. They farmed all their lives on Lot 21, concession 4. They quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family gathering at their home on June 16, 1970. Douglas died in 1974 and Alda in 1982.





Dave and Flossie Bennett

Flossie Murray, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Murray, married David Bennett, son of Mrs. Catherine Bennett, at the manse in Lawrence Station with Rev. Malcolm officiating, on Saturday, December 6, 1924. They were attended by her sister, Annabelle Murray and Thomas Kerr. Their family included Catherine, Marjorie, Dorothy and Gladys. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an Open House at Cowal Hall with over 200 guests attending. Dave passed away in 1975 and Flossie is a resident at the Bobier Home.



James C. and Ruby Campbell

James Cobban Campbell married Ruby Victoria Cornell on October 24, 1928, in London with Rev. Garbutt officiating. They were attended by Ruby's sister, Opal, and her brother-in-law, Albert Norton. Ruby taught school at S.S.# 9 until her marriage then she and Jim farmed Lot 21, Concession 3 until they retired. Jim was an insurance agent for Dunwich Mutual Fire Insurance Company for 43 years. Their children are Tena, Rose Marie, Russell, Margaret Jane, and Keith. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at an Open House at Cowal Hall on October 24, 1978 and their 55th in 1983.





I.L. (Mac) and Wilma MacAdam.

Wilma Elizabeth McCallum and Ivan Lawrence MacAdam were united in marriage on August 31, 1929, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dan. H. McCallum, with Rev. Langdon officiating. Wilma taught school in Cochrane, Mount Royal and other schools. Mac was Divisional Manager of the manufacturing division of the Borden Company. They retired to their home on the Dunwich-Southwold townline in 1963. They have two children, Donald and Mary Elizabeth. On August 31, 1979 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family gathering. In 1984 they celebrate their 55th anniversary.



J. Philip and Agnes Jean Campbell

John Philip Campbell married Agnes Jean McCallum on September 3, 1929, at Lawrence Station manse with Rev. Langdon officiating. The attendants were Archie McTavish and Vanelda Smith. Agnes Jean taught school until her marriage. Phil has been an active farmer throughout the years and with his sons operate under the name Belldoon Farm. Agnes Jean and Phil celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept 3, 1979 with a family gathering and their 53rd in 1982. They have three sons, Angus, Clifford, and Donald Philip. Agnes Jean passed away March 3, 1983.



Byron and Toolie Murray, 1982

Byron Murray married Lillie Tooley McLellan on July 29, 1933 at the Presbyterian manse, Dutton, with Rev. Dickson officiating. They lived for several years on the McLachlin farm on the 2nd concession, then 45 years ago moved to their present home. They quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 29, 1983. Byron passed away August 10, 1983 aged 74 years. There are five children in the family - Jack, Malcolm, Elizabeth, Marilyn, Darlene and Byron.

THE FOLLOWING COUPLES HAVE CELEBRATED 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES,

1889, February 28 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McCallum. 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
 1922, May 25, Robert D. and Catherine (Fletcher) Clarke.  
 1918 Mr. and Mrs. Alex "Big Alex" McWilliam.  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Bennett (Sr.)

The following were raised in Cowal, but have since moved away: (dates are for 50th anniversary)

1975, March 2 Alexander and Stella (Latcham) Campbell (Elrose, Sask.)  
 1973, September 23 John and Annabell (Thomson) Quigley.  
 1978, October 20 ~~Clare~~ Clare and Margaret (Patterson) McCallum.  
 1979, September 14 William and Anna (Carr) Carroll.  
 1982, June 8 Garfield and Janet (McCallum) Stride.  
 1981, January 31 Donald and Marion (McCallum) Forsyth.  
 1982, September 19 John D. and Helen (Cook) Thomson.

There may be other couples but we do not have any further information.

1984, September 15 Robert and Vera (Dawdy) Murray.



Stuart and Jean Patterson 1986

Jean Isabel MacMillan, daughter of Alex J. MacMillan and Catherine Hood, married Donald Stuart Patterson, son of Daniel and Annie (McGugan) on 23 January, 1936. They were married in St. George's manse, London, by Rev. Donald McKay a former minister at Cowal. Their attendants were Russell and Jean (Wight) Miller. Two children were born to them, Anne Alexandra and Donald Robert.

Stuart resided for 88 years on the farm where he was born, then resided in Byrne Rest Home, Fingal, until his death 11 June, 1990. He farmed all his life and did custom threshing. Jean was a public school teacher teaching in Elgin, Lambton and Oxford Counties before her marriage. She returned to teaching in 1955, teaching at Campbellton, Eagle and Dutton, retiring in 1969. Jean passed away suddenly from a heart attack on 30 November, 1987.

Stuart and Jean are both buried in Cowal-McBrides Cemetery in the Patterson plot.

On the 23rd November, 1986 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. An Open House in their honour was held at their home on 7 February, 1987, when 135 guests called on them. Their daughter, Anne, came from Vancouver to be with them.



DUNWICH GHOST

by George Ronald  
London Free Press Reporter

COWAL, February 4, 1946.

Take it from Philip Campbell, the quiet, young farmer who first saw "it" -- there's no ghost cavorting around Dunwich Township.

And take it from Provincial Constable Harry Gilchrist, of Iona - "it" is probably a young man dropped from a truck by a London company to train for engineering work in Canada's far north.

Campbell and Gilchrist agree the ghost story is "a lot of bunk". The people of Dunwich are curious- but certainly more unconcerned about spooks and phantoms than anybody else.

Said Campbell as he finished his chores in the barn tonight :  
"You can't tell me that a ghost leaves footprints!"

Said Gilchrist when the Free Press caught up with him at Wallacetown:  
"Aw, heh, it's just another of those stories that grows as it passes from person to person. "

Not that Campbell and Gilchrist don't believe in ghosts, mind you. They don't commit themselves on that score. All they say is that this particular whoop-tee-do hasn't enough mystery to get all worked up about.

Now if some nice, accommodating London firm will just come through and explain the whole thing....

Campbell yelled at a cow to "quit that bellowing, you!" and shook his head as he recalled a radio broadcast earlier today describing the "ghost" as "headless":

"My gosh," he exclaimed, "it sure had a head to it when I saw it."

"It" - that has been the name for want of a better description - appeared last Tuesday as Campbell worked at a barn three-quarters of a mile north of his own farm.

"There are about seven abandoned farms right in this area" said Campbell. "The district isn't particularly wild, but it certainly isn't well populated."

"First I knew about it was when Bowser, my two-year-old collie, started barking. I looked around and saw this white thing about 60 rods (330 yards) away. I think it saw me.

"Well, sir, it was in some kind of a parka or hooded affair and had a grey sash or sweater around the waist. You could see the black boots beneath the white. I'd say it looked like a woman. Anyway, it was a human - no doubt about that."

Campbell said he was curious all right, but he didn't think it was worth investigating immediately. He went on with his late-morning chores and thought he'd make a phone call to neighbours at Lunch-time.

He saw the white figure disappear into a small patch of woods.

"Before I sat down to eat" Campbell continued, "I phoned Archie McTavish, who lives on the back road where I had seen the thing. He drove to my cousin's, Humphrey Campbell, and while he was there he saw it himself.

"Next thing I knew, I was getting up from a good meal to go chase it. Archie and Humphrey's twin sons, Donald and Ronald, who are 16, all saw it not far from Humphrey's house. I got up there in a hurry and we started after it"

A few other neighbours joined the chase, Campbell said, and followed the footprints of the white-clad figure for some distance.

"There was a good fall of snow, and there were lots of prints. And it was only 2 p.m. by this time. Finally we lost the prints in another patch of woods. As a matter of fact, we messed up the prints with our own."

How big was the print? "Well," said Campbell, displaying his own size six overshoe, "it wasn't much bigger than this and there was no tread on it. It could be a woman all right."

All the Dunwich men who saw "it" maintain it was no slouch when it came to covering ground.

"It looked like a tall slim woman with a limp" was the way Archie McTavish described the thing. "But it could certainly run."



One possibility that "it" was some demented person who might need medical attention if apprehended, brought Dr. M.G. Graham into the picture. Dr. Graham was reported all set to tend the sick person - if, as and when.

As Philip Campbell says, "Don't get us wrong. Most of us still don't believe in ghosts. We're not afraid to go out alone at nights - not even the girls. We don't put double locks on our doors and we're not carrying guns.

"What we would like is to find out what the thing is. Somebody ought to know, surely"

Probably least concerned of all is Campbell's five-year-old son, Donald.

"I'm Don Philip Campbell," he announced as he met Free Press representatives in the pitch-black lane. "Wanta see my dad?"

Does he believe in ghosts?

"Naw, I wanta get going to school - and I gotta wait 'til after the holidays."

Bowser, the friendly collie, was busy licking a leg wound suffered earlier in the day with a fight with a larger canine. If Bowser could talk human-talk he would have said: "Ghost? That looks more like a human to me!" and gone on licking his wound.

That's the end of it as far as the Campbell's and McTavishes are concerned. They would like to know, though, if the army had any ski-soldiers out in the area for winter training.

(A spokesman at M.D. 1 headquarters in London told The Free Press that no such snow training was being carried on anywhere near Cowal.)

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This ghost story even travelled as far as the newspapers in England!